

Thursday, May 5, 2016

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Hundreds more workers needed to meet demand

GO CARZ IN HUNT FOR 150 DRIVERS

Report by Emma Walker

TAXI firm Go Carz is set to create 150 new jobs across Walsall and Wolverhampton under plans to recruit more drivers.

The business, the largest private hire firm in the Midlands, says it needs more drivers to meet demand for taxis.

As well as new drivers in the Black Country, the firm is looking for 200 across Shrewsbury and Telford.

If the company is successful in its recruitment drive it would see the total workforce rise to more than 1,000.

Carl Wilday, managing director, said: "We are keen to educate people about how the whole process works. A lot of people, for instance, don't realise that drivers take home 100 per cent of their fares.

"They are effectively self-employed so can work whenever they want, which makes the job extremely flexible. The main expenses are renting the radio or car, and fuel. We provide the jobs and they take the fare."

Mr Wilday said the demand for taxis had increased dramatically over the past few months.

Demand

He said: "We are taking more than 100,000 calls a week across our four offices, and it's increasing all the time."

"There is just such huge demand that we need more drivers as soon as possible – specifically in Shropshire at the moment, but our offices in Wolverhampton and Walsall are very busy too."

"We undertook a recruitment drive last summer, which was successful and saw us through the Christmas season, but we need even more drivers now because demand is just going up and up. The work is out there and if someone is willing to put the hours in they can earn a very good wage."

The company has also announced that it is offering all drivers a formal NVQ qualification in 'Road Passenger Vehicle Driving'.

The NVQ covers driving in a professional manner, ensuring passengers' health and safety, helping passengers in a wheelchair, and processing fares.

He added: "Our drivers are really important to us, as they are the public face of the company, so we are introducing these measures to make sure they are given the support necessary for them to carry out their job effectively."

For more information about job opportunities, contact Go Carz on 01743 454266 or send an email to gillian.pulford@gocarz.co.uk

BOWLED OVER BY FREE LESSONS FOR YOUNGSTERS



James Harris, aged 16, tries his hand at bowls at The Harrison's Club in Great Wyrley as Tony Partridge watches on

A BOWLS club is making the most of a cash boost by teaching the game to young people for free.

Harrison's Sports and Social Club, in Great Wyrley, has received a grant from the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's People Power Fund and is using the money to bring bowls to a new generation.

The money is being used to fund free classes led by qualified coach Tony Partridge as well as bringing in new equipment.

The club, based at Wharwell Lane, is welcoming children up to the age of 17 to the Saturday morning classes, with bosses hoping

the new generation can keep the game alive. Club representative Trevor Lowbridge said: "We are offering young people the chance to try out green bowls for free and would love to see more young people take advantage of this offer."

Qualified coach Tony Partridge has been brought in to teach the rules of the sport and the skills needed to be successful.

"All of the equipment has been provided by Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's People Power Fund, which we have received a generous donation from in order

to fund this activity. We run the sessions on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon and we will continue to do this until September, so we hope that by then we will have a good core of regulars."

The Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's People Power Fund offers grants of between £100 and £3,000 to community clubs in Staffordshire who are working to get young people off the streets and socially active. To learn more about Harrison's Sports Club's bowls sessions, call 01922 412138 or visit facebook.com/harrisonscclub

TRANSPORT

Signatures top 400 in bus service petition

A PETITION to save a crucial bus service for elderly residents in Darlaston has passed the 400 signature mark.

The number 38, which is run by National Express, provides a vital lifeline for elderly residents in and around Parklands Road, Kings Hill and Darlaston Road.

However, the operator is considering stopping the service.

Councillor Paul Bott, who is organising a petition to try to save the service, said: "We now have more than 400 signatures against the service being axed.

"It is vital for elderly residents in the area and should be kept."

CONTEST

Swimmer Ellie at dwarf games

PARALYMPIC star Ellie Simmonds took a break from her busy schedule of training to attend the National Dwarf Games.

The games, which are open to competitors aged from two to 60, were at Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School for the final day of the competition on Monday. Champion swimmer Ellie, who hails from Walsall, attended the swimming gala to give out medals to competitors.

The paralympian began competing in the games from the age of five.

NETWORKING

Day event is held for female entrepreneurs

A PERSONAL development and networking event for women in business in Walsall took place last week.

More than 40 women attended the event in The Hub at Walsall College, which was organised by NatWest to promote entrepreneurial activity in the area to help smaller firms find inspiration and support.

Delegates received expert advice from a series of female business owners, including Carol Harvey-Barnes, owner of CHB Performing Arts school and Pam Bains, director of Caring Care Ltd and BCABA Business Women of the Year winner for 2014.

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INSIDE

LOCKED ON FOR SURVIVAL FIGHT



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tackles the
hot topics
head-on



A COMMUNITY centre is still disused despite a £300,000 investment. A local councillor is now asking the public to help create a solid business plan for its future.

The Darlaston Community Association sports and social recreation ground on Hall Street, Darlaston, has been closed off to the public since it was shut down in early 2015.

However, in this time, councillors Paul and Christine Bott have secured and spent a chunk of a £300,000 grant on a new kitchen, bowling green, heating

and disabled access facilities. They are now hoping that someone will come forward with a business plan for the long term future of the centre which would be accepted by Walsall Council.

Paul Bott said: "It isn't right that this centre is not being used. It was sad when it had to close originally but we have brought this money in and carried out crucial improvements.

"We just want to see it back for the community, this is a great facility in one of the most deprived areas of Wal-

sall which is just being left unused. The council rightfully only want to hear about long term plans for the site from any potential owners. We really hope somebody comes in and takes over because this could open the door for more much needed investment in the area."

Residents are being asked to complete a questionnaire or contact their representatives with any ideas as to what the centre should offer in the future.

To find out more about how to have your say, email cllr.paul.bott@walsall.gov.uk

18 year sentence for sex attack on child

A REGISTERED sex offender has been jailed for 18 years after admitting further historic sex offences.

Christopher Astrauskas, aged 52, from Lindon Drive in Brownhills, pleaded guilty to four counts of indecent assault on a child between April 1998 and April 2000.

He had previously served three years in jail for indecent assault on a young girl in 1995 in Wishaw, Scotland. Following his release from prison Astrauskas moved to Walsall where he came to police attention as they searched for two missing boys in June 2014.

A tip-off led officers to Astrauskas' flat and, although the boys weren't there, he was arrested on suspicion of grooming.

The boys were later found safe and well, however a search of the flat revealed indecent images of children. Several potential victims were traced and one gave evidence of abuse she had suffered at a very young age at the hands of Astrauskas.

Resilient

Detective Constable Allison Wilkins, from the West Midlands Police Public Protection Unit, commended the young woman on her bravery in reliving past events.

She said: "This young woman had suffered awful neglect, as well as physical and emotional abuse, as a child at the hands of her mother, who regularly left her alone when she should have had adult supervision. Yet this resilient young woman has managed to rebuild her life and ensure that her own children are protected in a way that she never was. Her testimony and the evidence taken from Astrauskas' flat left him with little option other than to plead guilty."

"It is evident that he is a danger to children, so it is some small comfort to his victim that he will no longer be a risk to anyone for a considerable time to come."

Astrauskas was jailed for sexual assault, indecency with a child and making indecent images. Astrauskas was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court, and will remain on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

The victim's mother was also sentenced to 20 months in prison at a previous hearing on January 26, after admitting child cruelty offences.

Musical pupils raise the roof at hall



Director of the choir, Hannah Sullivan, with pupils from Queen Mary's Grammar and High Schools at the concert

HUNDREDS of pupils from two Walsall schools wowed the crowds with African drumming and a traditional choir performance.

Boys and girls from Queen Mary's Grammar and Queen Mary's High Schools performed to a packed out venue during their spring concert at the town hall.

Musicians used an array of instruments to perform to the 450 guests on Wednesday evening with performances ranging from a gospel choir to a skiffle band, which

uses homemade instruments. The concert followed a Christmas carol concert in the town hall last year and the school hopes its continued success will see similar events organised in the future. It was organised and conducted by head of music over both schools, Mark Vause, as well as assistant music teacher Hannah Sullivan.

Mr Vause said: "We held a Christmas carol concert in the Town Hall and as it was such a success we decided to organise another."

"It was an overwhelming success – everyone has been talking about it because the programme was so varied. There were 450 people in the audience so the town hall was nearly full. The feedback from parents has been brilliant and people were asking if we'd be holding one again. The day after they were still all absolutely delighted. Music in the school over the last few years has been relatively quiet but there has since been a dramatic increase in participation."

Statue is to be put up in honour of town author

HE has been hailed as the Shakespeare of Walsall and now one of the town's most celebrated authors is to be recognised with a statue.

Jerome K Jerome, who was born at Belsize House on Bradford Street wrote the celebrated literary classic Three Men in a Boat in 1889.

The humorous account of a two-week boating holiday along the River Thames has been lauded by critics for its timelessness and has reportedly sold more than one million copies.

Now after years of lobbying by the Jerome K Jerome Society, a 7ft statue featuring a bronze bust of the author is to be unveiled at Walsall Arboretum this summer. Tony Gray, chairman of the society, said: "This is long overdue. I have been saying for years that Jerome K Jerome is a great tourist opportunity for the town because he was born in Walsall and we have got him like Stratford has Shakespeare."

"His desk was presented to the town in 1959 to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth, and is on display in the Mayor's parlour but you have to book an appointment." He wrote over 30 novels and 30 plays which were all played in the West End. The statue is set to cost £15,000.

It has been designed by local sculptor Phil Kelly and will be created out of Derbyshire stone. The bronze bust will be unveiled at Walsall Arboretum on Saturday June 11. The ceremony will be attended by town dignitaries as well as Hi-de-Hi! actor Jeffrey Holland.

Chance to improve engineering skills

SHORT courses for engineers wanting to improve their qualifications are being run by City of Wolverhampton College over the summer. The college is offering a 12-week Level 3 bridging maths course for those who need to brush up their skills in order to progress to an HNC qualification in engineering.

An eight-week personal and professional development module for employees looking to boost their promotion prospects is also taking place.

The maths course runs every Friday, 12.30-4.30pm, from June 24, with the personal and professional development course on Tuesdays, 9am-4pm, from June 21. Both courses will be at the college's Paget Road campus. Contact the college on 01902 836000 or visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/subject/engineering/

Brewing up for ale and cider festival

WOLVERHAMPTON'S beer and cider festival is to take place at Newhampton Arts Centre from June 9-11. There will be 75 different cask ales, plus a wide range of ciders and perries and international bottled beers on offer. There will be live music on the Friday evening.

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Jail on hold for woman who issued dodgy advice

AN 'incompetent' immigration adviser from Walsall who admitted providing an illegal advice service has avoided an immediate jail term.

Ms Satpal Kaur Kundi, also known as Veena Kumar, aged 46 of Caledonian Close, Walsall, pleaded guilty at Birmingham Magistrates' Court on April 25 to a charge of providing unregulated immigration advice or services between August 2013 and May 2015.

She was sentenced to 10 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay compensation of £2,613, costs of £1,604, and a victim surcharge of £80.

On sentencing, the magistrate said: "The offence had been aggravated by your incompetent service, prejudice caused to the victim's immigration status and money charged over a prolonged period of time."

"You have also shown a disregard for statutory requirements and used fraudulent methods in doing so."

Speaking about the decision, Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner, Ian Leigh, said: "The OISC is here to ensure that people seeking immigration advice are treated fairly by people they can trust."

"Ms Kundi chose to operate outside the law, and without regard for the protection of her clients."

"I am delighted with the outcome of this case, and I hope it sends a clear message to other people considering providing immigration advice – act within the law or you will find yourself in court."

Domestic abuse charity folds as funds dry up

A CHARITY that offers advice and help to victims of domestic violence has been forced to shut due to lack of funding. Walsall Domestic Violence Forum, formed in 1992, closed on Wednesday, with group leaders blaming a cash crisis. The closure comes as domestic violence in the town is increasing and the borough council has pledged to spend almost £900,000 on tackling forms of abuse.

The forum, which became a registered charity in 2005, will continue to run a Facebook and Twitter page 'for the time being', but the main office at Sneyd Hall Road, Bloxwich, will no longer operate. Walsall North MP David Winnick has described the closure as 'devastating'.

In a statement the charity's co-ordinator, Sheri Rogers, said: "From myself and the team at Walsall Domestic Violence Forum, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous support. We have fought long and hard over many years to secure the necessary funds to continue our support services for victims of domestic violence. However, sadly we have now lost that battle."

The CQC continued, this time on the home's responsiveness, saying: "The service was not consistently responsive."



The Muslim Welfare Society Mosque

PLANS have been submitted to expand and refurbish a dilapidated mosque in Walsall.

The Muslim Welfare Society has stated the proposal will enhance the existing place of worship at Bills Street, Darlaston, rather than create a 'super mosque'.

The plans include building a new two-storey extension to the main building which will make it more accessible for disabled people as well as create a dedicated entrance for children in order to meet requirements stipulated by the Department for Education.

The flat roof on the mosque will be replaced by a pitched roof in order to address a number of problems including leaking water.

A new library and resource centre will also be built on the site but this will replace an existing facility.

Meanwhile another car park will be opened up in order to eradicate traffic problems with people coming and going to the mosque.

Project manager Aslan Patel said: "The plans are more of an upgrade rather than an expansion although it will create one new small classroom

for special needs children. We need to provide better facilities for disabled people because at the moment they can't access the upper floor. Also we haven't got a disabled toilet."

"We also need to follow Department for Education guidelines for mosques. At the moment everyone uses one entrance but this would allow us to create a dedicated entrance for children."

"The library and resource centre will replace an existing building to create a space useable by everybody. The building was built in the 1980s and it has lasted surprisingly well."

FIREFIGHTERS battled to stop flames spreading to nearby homes after arsonists torched a car.

Crews were called to a residential estate just off Bescot Road in Pleck, Walsall, just after 9pm on Thursday. Fire chiefs said their quick actions prevented the flames moving onto an adjacent fenced bin storage area, which could have led to them spreading to nearby flats. The blaze destroyed the white Volkswagen car.

One fire engine, including five firefighters, attended the scene.

Matthew Smith, spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "The fire was believed to have been started deliberately so we requested police attendance."

It comes after an arson attack at a car body repair shop in Willenhall wrecked the cars of six customers and plunged the business into chaos.

Police recorded CCTV footage in a bid to track down an arsonist who started a major blaze last week at Unique Bodyworks on the Willenhall Lane Industrial Estate.

Saddlers top rivals in deposit league

WALSALL fans would be paying the most out of any club in the region to rent a property near their team's ground, according to new figures.

The Saddlers' WS1 postcode puts the club in 40th place when all 92 Football League clubs are ranked by deposit size to move in to a rented home, according to report from the Deposit Protection Service.

The average tenancy deposits for those renting near Bescot Stadium is £750, putting the club above its neighbours as well as big hitters in the football world such as Manchester United, Manchester City and Leicester City.

For Wolves fans, a deposit of £592 is needed if you want to rent in the WV1 postcode near Molineux, more than rivals West Bromwich Albion, with a £653 average deposit in the B71 area.

Tate bovvered for latest tour

CATHERINE Tate will bring her iconic sketch characters to Wolverhampton's Civic Hall later this year.

'Nan' Taylor and stroppy teenager Lauren 'am I bovvered?' Cooper will feature as part of The Catherine Tate Show - Live on December 2.

The announcement comes as venue bosses revealed the number of additional seats being installed as part of its £10 million overhaul has been cut by around 100. Preliminary works revealed the load bearing capacity of the Civic's existing steel structure was less than originally thought.

Home told to improve as safety fears aired

A CARE home in Walsall has been told to improve after concerns were raised over the safety of patients.

CQC inspectors, which rated Orchard Manor on Slaney Road as requires improvement in every category, highlighted that 'risks to people were not always assessed and managed appropriately' as well as adding that 'people were not always protected from the risk of harm'.

Bosses at the home said they wished not to comment.

CQC inspectors, who visited the property unannounced on February 4, found that the home needed to improve its safety, effectiveness, level of caring, its responsiveness and its leadership. It said in its report: "People were not always protected from the risk of harm because risks had not been clearly identified and managed."

"There were sufficient staff on duty to meet the care and support needs of people. People received their medicines as prescribed and appropriate records were kept when medicines were administered. Some staff were not knowledgeable about the requirements and their responsibilities in relation to the Mental Capacity Act 2005."

Restricted

"Assessments of people's capacity to consent and records of decision had not been completed. People were at risk of having their rights and freedom restricted. Staff did not always ensure they sought people's consent before providing care."

"Staff had received training but not all staff had the skills and knowledge to support people's specific care needs."

Commenting on its concerns over the home's safety, the CQC said: "The service was not consistently safe. Risks to people were not always assessed and managed appropriately. People told us that they felt safe. Staff understood their responsibilities to protect people from the risk of harm or abuse."

On the home's effectiveness it added: "The service was not consistently effective. People's choices and rights were not always respected. People were supported to have enough to eat and drink. People were supported to access healthcare professionals as required."

The CQC continued, this time on the home's responsiveness, saying: "The service was not consistently responsive."

Wool you believe it for a hot shot!



The startling image of James Clarke taken by his Wednesfield-based photographer wife Steph

IT looks like a scene fresh out of an action movie — where a dramatic sea of fire rains down on a dark figure. But this epic shot was taken by a Black Country photographic club with the help of some clever camera trickery.

Photographer Steph Clarke, co-founder of Wednesfield Photographic Club, took it when he was out at Baggeridge Country Park. It shows her husband, James, dressed from head-to-toe and holding an umbrella, engulfed with burning wire wool that is being dropped from a disused railway bridge above.

Steph used the technique of a long exposure to capture the scene, where the photograph is taken over four seconds.

Steph, aged 35, from Wednesfield, said: "We made the effects of the photograph where a member of our group stood on the bridge above and dropped burning wool over him. We took some safety precautions although some of the wire managed to burn through his clothes and umbrella."

"The burning wool looks incredible, it gives the effect that there are a lot more flames and sparks than there actually is."

The wool gets very hot but goes out quickly. It is safe as long as there isn't any naked skin and the ground is wet."

Steph took the photograph with her Nikon D7000, a 'mid-range DSLR camera', whilst out on a trip with her group.

The club is celebrating its one year anniversary last month, and there are now more than 100 members online.

The club meet every two weeks at The Hub at Ashmore Park. The next meeting is May 12. For more information visit wednesfieldphotographyclub.wordpress.com

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Crews called out as VW set alight near town homes

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A VICAR in Leamington Spa has outraged some folk by planning to screen the "blasphemous" 1979 film Monty Python's Life of Brian in his church and charge £10 a head. And who wouldn't be outraged? As fans will recall from the film's encounter between Brian and the leper, the going rate for a life story is only half a denarius.

LATEST go-faster accessory for the jogger who has everything, according to the documentary Inside a Billionaire's Wardrobe (BBC2), is a pair of customised Nike trainers made of python skin at a cool £20,000. You may find them a little constricting.

SO far, the EU debate has invited us to consider how Churchill, Shakespeare and Jesus might have voted. A reader writes: "How about Father Christmas? Is he for Brexit?" Maybe we should all write him a letter.

"NO taxation without representation" was the slogan of the American Revolution 250 years ago. It was coined by colonists who were furious at paying taxes to Britain when they had no representatives in Parliament. This week the Institute for Fiscal Studies revealed that, thanks to the UK tax threshold steadily rising from £6,475 to £10,600, almost half of all Britons now pay no income tax. So how long will it be before a majority of the electorate will be able to vote for the most extravagant programmes, knowing that it won't cost them a penny in income tax? Taxation without representation is bad but is representation without taxation any better?



politicians in check. Their latest wheeze, to spend £29 million of our money restoring the mechanism of Big Ben, is both wicked and stupid. Wicked because it consumes a vast amount of public money that could be far better used. Stupid because, in an age of atomic clocks and digital sound systems, who in his right mind would rebuild a Victorian clock mechanism? It is as daft as replacing the House of Commons central heating with a Roman hypocaust. An intelligent Parliament would have updated Big Ben with a modern digital system for a fraction of the price. But we don't have an intelligent Parliament. We have a collection of financial incontinent obsessives with flashing other people's cash around.

MY eye was caught this week by the photo of a 15-year-old Girl Guide confessing her sins to the Pope in an open-air ceremony in Rome. I cannot imagine what a 15-year-old Girl Guide has to confess ("Forgive me, Holy Father, for I have failed to polish my woggle").

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Crackdown on drivers nets 300

MORE than 300 'distracted drivers' were caught using their phones, rolling cigarettes or reading at the wheel during a police crackdown.

Officers from Central Motorway Police Group used an unmarked HGV on the M5, M6 and M42 to spot the careless drivers, of which 133 were using a mobile phone. There were 138 caught for not wearing a seatbelt. The three-week operation

to tackle bad driving behaviour saw 274 vehicles, including 207 HGVs by motorway police.

Other reasons for being stopped over the 15-day period were driving without due care and attention or not being in proper control of a vehicle after officers witnessed some drivers rolling-up cigarettes and reading directions at the wheel.

Punishments for those caught in-

cluded warnings, penalty notices or attending an awareness course.

Inspector Simon Kirman, from CMPPG, said: "We saw some drivers recklessly jeopardising their own safety and potentially putting other road users at risk."

"It only takes a momentary distraction to cause an accident which, at high speed, can be catastrophic. The unlikered cab enabled us to

observe unsuspecting commercial vehicle drivers and identify those committing an offence."

"It is not acceptable even during slower moving or queuing traffic to check a mobile phone for messages, text messaging or looking at social media. A lot of drivers acknowledged their behaviour was wrong when stopped and the operation was about enforcement but also education."

Young fox freed after it is caught in goal net

A FOX cub had to be rescued when he got entangled in sports netting at a Walsall school. The struggling cub, who is only a few weeks' old, was spotted by a member of the public last Wednesday at Whetstone Field Primary School in Beaufort Way, Aldridge.

The football netting had wrapped around the cub's neck and front right paw, leaving him frightened and unable to move.

RSPCA animal collection officer Cara Gibbon freed the cub by carefully cutting away the netting. She said: "As I was removing him, the cub's mum and dad ran over to see what was happening. As soon as I freed him, I popped him under the fence and he ran back to his mum and dad. It is so nice to have a rescue with a happy ending."

The incident has prompted the animal charity to issue a warning to sports people using equipment like nets to remember to put them away after use to avoid similar cases.

Ms Gibbon added: "Netting such as goal nets pose a real hazard to our wildlife and sadly we get a lot of wild animals can get trapped in them. To prevent this from happening, we encourage people to remove the nets after use and store them safely away. Sadly, over the years we have had to remove far too many wild animals from sports netting, including hedgehogs and foxes. As these animals are nocturnal, they have normally been trapped and struggling all night and so by the time they are found in the morning, they can have very serious injuries."

For details on the RSPCA visit www.rspca.org.uk. You can donate £3 by texting HELP to 78866.

Borough rise in encampments

THE number of traveller and gipsy sites in the Black country has increased dramatically in the last two years, according to a new report.

The Walsall borough saw the greatest increase in sites, with 69 in 2015 in comparison to 15 sites in 2014.

A camp on Bescot Retail Park, close to Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium emerged in November 2013.

Figures show that since 2015 the number of illegal encampments in Wolverhampton has almost doubled, from 10 in 2014 to 19 in 2015.

It also follows three petitions, signed by more than 2,600 people against plans for a travellers site in Darlaston. Plans for the site were scrapped in January this year after residents protested against the development.

Death leap of Caparo boss ruled as suicide

THE boss of Black Country-based steel firm Caparo Industries jumped to his death from the balcony of his penthouse after becoming depressed following the collapse of his business.

Angad Paul, aged 45, killed himself as his children played in their bedroom, believing he was to blame for the downfall of his family business, an inquest heard.

The businessman's steel company, Caparo, had been enduring large-scale job cuts as administrators tried to salvage the firm. Hundreds of redundancies were announced at the company in October 2015 amid the collapse in steel prices, one month before he died.

Mr Paul was the son of Lord Paul who founded the business in 1968 with a £5,000 loan and helped it grow into a multi million-pound enterprise. Lord Paul is also Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton.

Factories

Angad Paul had run the Oldbury-based Caparo Industries subsidiary since taking over from his father in 1996. It collapsed with £160 million of debt in October, leading to the loss of around 500 jobs from its factories in the Black Country including sites in Darlaston, Oldbury and Dudley.

Westminster Coroner's Court heard that Mr Paul told colleague Denis Krupnov that 'although he was CEO of the company, he had no real control of the company affairs'.

He added that his father - who attended the inquest - 'took all the decisions'.

Mr Paul became very depressed when the company was put into administration, and, although he believed it was the 'wrong decision', there was nothing he could do, the inquest heard.

Mr Paul's wife, Michelle, told the inquest that her 'best friend', had a history of depression. She said that in the months before his death Mr Paul had expressed his wish to come off anti-depressant medication, something that he had been taking since 1999.

The court heard that Mr Paul sold all four of his sports cars and began wearing his cheapest watch, saying he did not 'deserve nice things' when so many of his workers were going to lose their jobs.

He admitted himself to the Capio Nightingale hospital - where he continued to work on his business - on October 4, and the court heard.

Mr Hall said: "We have had some big donations of £100 but most have been from £10 to £20."

Backing Lockmen's survival fight



Drumming up support for Willenhall Town Football Club are Sharon, Tom, aged nine and Simon Hall

WILLENHALL Football Club have raised £460 in the last week to edge closer to saving the club.

The club needs to raise £2,000 by the end of the season to stay in business.

Since appearing in the Express & Star last week the clubs fund has risen from £710 to £1,170.

Simon Hall, who has been chairman of the club for the last three years, said he was 'pleased' but added that he does not want people to think they were out of the woods.

Mr Hall said: "We have had some big donations of £100 but most have been from £10 to £20."

"We have received some fivers as well which is absolutely fine because it all adds up. We have been going slow and steady so I hope that means we win the race."

"Just because we have done well doesn't mean we are over the line."

"I have written in the programme for the next home match that this must not be the last one ever."

Over the last five years the club has reduced outgoings by 65 per cent with measures such as Mr Hall's wife doing the club's laundry and catering.

To support the Lockmen go to www.gofundme.com/5dvnequ4 or call 07901 560 691.

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Authorities called over children at home alone

SCORES of families in the Black Country and Staffordshire are being referred to authorities for leaving children home alone, new figures reveal.

A total of 68 referrals to police, children's services or social services were made by the NSPCC in 2015/16 – up four on the previous year. The cases were passed on to the authorities after calls were made to the NSPCC helpline.

The charity has warned parents to think carefully before they leave their children alone. A total of 1,883 referrals were made by the NSPCC across England and Wales last year, an increase up from 1,826 the year before.

And last year the NSPCC helpline took 2,489 calls from adults concerned that children were being left unattended. Some 888 of these – 36 per cent – happened in the school summer holidays from July to September.

The total number of referrals is gradually rising.

In 2015/16, there were 14 in Dudley (up from 10 the previous year); 13 in Walsall (up from five), 12 in Wolverhampton (up from 11), six in Sandwell (down from 11) and 23 in Staffordshire (down from 27).

There is no set age for leaving a child alone, but the law states there should be no risk of harm to the child.

And it is suggested babies and toddlers are never left on their own and under-16s should not be left alone overnight.

The NSPCC will refer a case to other agencies, such as the police or children's services, if there are serious concerns for a child's welfare.

Karol Keenan, NSPCC service manager in the West Midlands, said: "Leaving children home alone can put them at risk of harm which could result in serious consequences."

Anyone with concerns about a child to contact the 24-hour NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. And parents are also urged to call if they need advice about leaving children alone.

Food collection starts at Tesco

TESCO has launched a permanent food collection point in its Brownsells supermarket, one of 100 in the country.

Part of Tesco's ongoing partnership with charities FareShare and The Trussell Trust, the collection point will allow customers to donate store cupboard essentials to people in need all year round, with Tesco topping up all donations financially by 20 per cent.

The new collection points are part of Tesco's ongoing commitment to support its charity partners. Food poverty is a vital issue that Tesco customers and colleagues support via the bi-annual Neighbourhood Food Collection.

Tesco says the new points will mean that around 400,000 meals will be provided to people in need this year.



Heather Ratcliffe

Career going swimmingly for Heather

Fight on dilapidated school led by Winnick

THE campaign to get more funding for a run-down school has been taken to parliament.

All Saints National Academy on High Street, formerly Bloxwich C of E Primary, applied to central government to receive more than £1.3 million in funding to help bring it back up to scratch, but the request was denied.

Now Walsall North MP David Winnick, who spearheaded the campaign to get funding, has taken the fight to parliament.

The school was discussed by the MP and secretary for schools Nick Gibb on April 26, with the minister agreeing to visit the school over the coming months to get a clearer picture of the situation.

MP Winnick said: "The school was originally built in Bloxwich in 1862, and further sections were added on over time, mainly in the 1920s.

"Anyone who saw it would not be surprised that the school was originally built in that year.

"The documentation sent with the bid included a comment from a visiting building professional, who said that the internal environment is without doubt one of the worst he has seen in almost 30 years of looking after schools.

Praise

"One can imagine the number of schools that that building professional would have visited and seen, many of them in a state of disrepair, and yet he made that comment.

"Let me make this point, so that there can be no misunderstanding. Despite the conditions that I have described, which are certainly unacceptable, fine work is being undertaken by the teachers at All Saints National Academy.

"I have only the greatest praise for the way in which, day in and day out during the school week, such dedicated work is carried out by the teachers, the head and all the other staff involved in the school. However, let me simply say that no member of the Cabinet or, indeed, of the Government as a whole – or, for that matter, any Member of the House – would wish their children to be educated in a school that is as dilapidated as this."

Earlier this year, Mr Winnick took a delegation to see schools minister Nick Gibb to put their case across for receiving the funding.

The Walsall MP was joined by children from the school, as well as those from the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education.

A SPORTY entrepreneur forced to drop out of a diploma after suffering a severe illness has become a business's youngest ever franchisee owner.

Heather Ratcliffe was bedridden for five months after suffering from glandular fever and quinsy, a rare and potentially serious complication of tonsillitis.

The illness forced her to pull out of a college sports therapy diploma at the age of 18 in 2007.

Heather, from Bradford Lane, Walsall, began working part-time with Swimtime, teaching a one-hour lesson each week in Sutton Coldfield.

She planned to restart her course but West Midlands franchisee, Lorna Salmon, saw such potential in her abilities she upped her teaching to 50 one-to-one sessions per week.

She took on more responsibility over the next three years, interviewing and training new swimming teachers, as well as learning how to run the business.

An opportunity arose in 2011 to take over the business after raising the £18,000 required after selling her first home.

The move made her Swimtime's youngest franchisee, aged 23, and five years later she continued to build her management structure and a team to support her growth.

"When I first took on the franchise, I had just three instructors teaching about 90 swimmers," she said.

"The business turned over around £2,000 per month at the time, which was a great starting point, but in just five years I've boosted this to a turnover of £34,000 per month, with more than 1,000 swimmers, 23 swimming instructors and three administration staff."

Heather, who now runs swimming classes in Walsall, Dudley, Coventry and Leicester, has also started bringing in new training methods after spending three months with coaches over in Australia.

Students geared up for contest



Paul Highway, of Great Barr, Carl Harding, of Kidderminster, Alexander Silk and Jamie Mansell, both of Walsall

FIVE Level 3 Automotive students from Walsall College have made it through the qualifying round of the national IMI Skill Auto competition with some of the highest scores in the country.

Curriculum manager for Automotive, Mark Pemberton, described how he is "very proud to have five students representing Walsall College in this year's competition". Mr Pemberton said:

"The competition is a great oppor-

tunity for students to showcase their skills whilst testing them-

selves against their peers."

The students, Jamie-Lee Mansell, aged 18, Simona Juske, 19, Alexander Silk, 24, Carl Hard-

ing, 31, and Paul Highway, 29, have all progressed to a live heat at the Jaguar Land Rover Academy on Monday and Tuesday.

The event aims to find top new talent within the automotive body repair, vehicle refinishing and

automotive technology industry by putting students against each other in a series of tasks.

These tasks will require the students to demonstrate not only their practical skills but also their theoretical knowledge of the field.

Students will be required to work on a selection of vehicles to identify and repair a range of different problems, from electrical faults to transmission issues, all under the watchful eye of experts.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave the house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Officer trapped chat room user

A FEMALE undercover police officer trapped a 44-year-old father of three who was using a teenage internet chat room to hold lewd conversations with young girls, a judge heard.

She was posing as a 13-year-old when unsuspecting Sean Killian linked up with her through the internet chat room Teen-Chat.org, Wolverhampton Crown Court. They chatted on both April 27 and 28 with him using increasingly lewd language until he exposed himself via a web cam to the 'girl' for around 30 seconds and suggested booking a hotel room, said Miss Elizabeth Power, prosecuting.

Police traced Killian who admitted he had been accessing the site for several months while also confessing to being sexually aroused by online conversations he had with young girls, the court was told. The factory worker claimed that it started because he was bored after his wife started a part time job.

Mr Christopher Loach, defending, said: "This was a conversation. No physical sexual acts took place."

Killian now living at Birch Lane, Walsall, pleaded guilty to inciting a girl to take part in sexual activity and was given a three year community order on condition he completes the sex offender group work programme.

Interest shown in failing BHS chain

ADMINISTRATORS working to sell collapsed department store chain BHS – which has a store in Walsall – say they have had "a number of expressions of interest" from possible buyers.

At the same time the company's 11,000 workers have all been paid their wages over recent days.

Philip Duffy, joint administrator of BHS at Duff & Phelps, said: "Over the last few days we have been working hard to stabilise the business and are pleased to have received a number of expressions of interest."

Villa chiefs can bank on Hanks

HOLLYWOOD A-lister Tom Hanks has pledged money to Aston Villa, sort of. The Forrest Gump star has promised to 'give' money to develop the club following their relegation – although they may have to wait a while.

He was recently asked about Villa's plight, in which he replied, "Do you make me want to cry?"

He later joked: "I'm going to create a coffee shop book full of my photographs of lost gloves. I will give all the money to developing Aston Villa."

Farming group cash

LOCAL volunteers took to the streets of Walsall on April 16 to raise money for Compassion in World Farming, Britain's leading farm animal welfare organisation. The £120.48 raised will enable Compassion in World Farming to continue to campaign for increased standards of farm animal welfare.

Wrong that graduate gets Pound of flesh

FOLLOWING a long, drawn-out legal battle, supported by The Guardian, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Cait Reilly, a geology graduate from Birmingham, will be entitled to compensation from the British Government after she was asked to do a fortnight's work experience at Poundland.

Yippee! Work experience at Poundland? How could they?

Miss Reilly, you see, wanted to work in a museum. Very nice, I'm sure. Except that where museums are still being kept open, they are increasingly staffed by unpaid volunteers. The chances of getting paid employment in that line of work are roughly the same as mine are of being picked for the Euros.

Now maybe if Miss Reilly spent a lifetime paying into the social security system, it might be different. But she hadn't. She had not long left university, and clearly taken much more out than she had paid in. And if she does receive compensation, it will be people like you, me, and the Poundland workforce who will be picking up the tab.

Poundland was founded by Steve Smith, a working-class lad from Bilston who once said it was drummed into him as a child "if you don't work, you don't eat".

I bet he wouldn't have sued the Government.

□□□

READER David Edwards takes me to task over my misgivings about plans to introduce a London-style ban on pavement parking across England to 'de-clutter' our streets.

He says I am "selfish and arrogant", and give no thought to the blind and partially sighted who struggle to navigate the pavements. Now he might be right about the former points, but not about the visually impaired.

Under existing laws, anybody blocking a pavement or making life difficult for the disabled is guilty of causing an obstruction and liable to be fined. Quite right too.

However, there are many places where it is perfectly safe, legal and perfectly reasonable to park partially on the footpath.

For example, where the pavement is abnormally wide, and there is plenty of space to get by. Or at the end of a cul-de-sac, or a narrow road where it is necessary to allow emergency access. The proposed new law would allow no such discretion, simply because somebody has deemed that cars parked on the pavement represent "clutter".

Mr Edwards suggests drivers should try walking, which is fine for those who are fit and healthy. But he might also spare a thought for the elderly, or those in poor health for whom the car is a lifeline. Motorists are not some subversive, niche group which needs to be regulated. They are the vast majority of the population and should be treated as such.



Paycare boss Kevin Rogers who didn't take on the role



Mr Wright paying tribute to Darren Cooper at the recently held memorial event at West Bromwich Town Hall



Albion chairman Jeremy Peace, with sporting and technical director Richard Garlick, and Adrian Wright



Ninder Johal, the previous president of the chamber

Adrian kicks off with role to help business

ROB GOLLEDGE talks to the new man at the helm of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Adrian Wright

ADRIAN Wright knows what his top priority is as the man at the helm of Black Country business – a PR mission to sell and celebrate the region.

As West Bromwich Albion's sales and marketing director he is used to securing deals from £2.5 million shirt sponsorships to £30,000 hospitality packages from companies all over the world.

And knowing the benefits of good PR is what he thinks he can bring as President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

The 39-year-old said: "I have a real strong belief in that from a PR point of view I would be hoping to be shouting about businesses to amplify what they do and how they economically benefit the region. One thing I don't think we do very well is talk about the region and what our successes are. There are some exceptional businesses that are doing incredible things that no-one knows anything about.

Relationships

"I think it is really important we amplify those opportunities so wider West Midlands, national and global media are aware of them."

He moved to the Hawthorns six years ago after a spell at Blues as head of corporate sales.

And he hopes to bring a bit of Premier League nous to the chamber.

He said: "With it being a membership body and being very media and PR driven, communication is imperative to satisfy members.

"Look at my day job which is acquiring sponsors, executive clients, box holders. They are effectively buying membership into an establishment. We offer them assets that benefit their business which is no different from the chamber. The wants and needs can be very different but ultimately it is about relationships, delivery and retention."



Communication is imperative – Adrian Wright

"One thing I have instilled into people I have had the fortune to speak to at the chamber is to make sure we retain the members we have got – that is really important. I have always been schooled that it is twice as hard to recruit a new member than to maintain one."

Mr Wright has taken up the reigns replacing the popular Ninder Johal after two years.

And he also just penned a deal with the University of Wolverhampton on a sporting initiative called Pass it Forward – providing football coaching skills for young people in India.

The partnership has been set up with the Delhi Government, local football team Delhi Dynamos, Youth Football International, and the West Bromwich Albion Foundation.

The initial programme will see sports coaching practice degree students from the university's Institute of Sport travelling to Delhi with WBA Foundation coaches to provide school-



Keeping an eye on the future of steel industry

based football coaching for around 35,000 children between the ages of five and 14. And he is more than aware the impact football can have in all sorts of walks of life.

He said: "You talk to a lot of people in terms of football and it touches a lot of the community. We are a condensed area with five clubs which have been represented at a high level. Next season we are a Premier League club and I think that is something we have to capitalise on. As a local venue we communicate with our local communities, we have a lot of businesses coming in to use our facilities. Match days are a pinnacle where we have people from all over the country visiting our stadium, we connect live at the game, digitally and by the airwaves to a massive audience."

And he admits, having Wolves back in the top flight would benefit the economy. He said: "To have two Premier League clubs would be

better. While we are in the Premier League we will fly the flag for the West Midlands and ensure our region is on the map."

Mr Wright was an 11th hour replacement after Kevin Rogers, boss of Wolverhampton firm Paycare, said he could not take up the role due to work commitments.

He said: "One of the perils of being a Premier League football club is the tendency to resonate to the international market and sometimes you can lose touch with your local roots. Being born and bred Brummie, and working in the Black Country for six years it was a perfect opportunity. I threw my hat in the ring and the board unanimously backed me. I have taken on the challenge and am looking forward to it."

"Ultimately there are some internal things we need to address – what value is it adding to members, what services we are providing and what we can do for them. One thing the chamber is good at doing is keeping people aware about what is going on in business and major things, the agenda, EU referendum, Tata issues, a lot of the things the Chamber needs to have its finger on the pulse so that members and the wider business community understand what impact it will have on their business."

Meanwhile, supporting manufacturers, getting a grip on the steel crisis, and the EU referendum are the big topics.

He said: "With manufacturing being 40 per cent of the area's GDP output, it is important that our manufacturing base is not eroded and making sure they are at the cutting edge of their games. The referendum from a chamber perspective is we won't take a view backing either camp. "On steel we are keeping a very close eye on it. There are around 150 businesses connected to the steel industry and naturally we want to ensure we are fed the correct information. As we speak it is a watching brief and we have set up a lobbying group that is trying to pull together a commercialisation deal which if no-one was to buy Tata then that the Government would come in and stabilise it until in a good enough position to be sold. Whether that happens remains to be seen but it is something we support as a Chamber. Thousands of jobs and in the supply chain depend on this industry."

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Ofsted comment is understatement

IN a timely report on Walsall Council's support for local schools Ofsted made matters very clear, Walsall schools are still 'not good enough'.

The Government watchdog stated that in particular disadvantaged students and pupils with special needs were not improving as they should. What a severe criticism of an underperforming service. Where is the urgency to put this right?

A great deal of work is still required, this Ofsted comment must win the award for understatement of the year 2016! Walsall

Figures are to rebut old EU claims

D POTTINGER (letter 20 April) finds statistical inconsistency where there is none.

A comparison of import and export figures between Britain and the 'whole' – more probably the rest – of the EU is not 'naughty' but key to the debate. The figures are clearly intended to rebut the crass argument that 'we' buy more from 'them' than 'they' buy from 'us' and therefore 'they' can't afford to lose 'us'.

Furthermore they may also increase their sales to one another after Brexit to replace goods and services previously bought from the UK.

There is absolutely nothing incongruous in the statistic that 53 per cent of British imports come from other EU countries while constituting eight per cent of their exports.

I buy 100 per cent of my cars from Ford and about 80 per cent of my groceries from Tesco, but my purchases constitute a tiny percentage of their sales.

A T HARRISON
Walsall

Come to Bentley Family Business!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

What 'leap in the dark' is it for UK?

ACCORDING to Alistair Darling, speaking on the BBC Radio Four Today programme, if we vote to leave the European Union we will be 'taking a leap in the dark'.

So, where is the real leap in the dark? Has he not considered our 1,000 years of history during which Britain gave its people rights under Magna Carta, created the 'Mother of all Parliaments', pre-empted European Human Rights by around 300 years with the 1689 Bill of Rights and was first to abolish slavery.

Also, what about the creation of a British global empire on which the sun never set and the fact we stood up to dictators such as Napoleon and Hitler who

D BENNETT
Walsall

themselves tried to create a European superstate?

These are just a few moments in British history during which we led the world on many fronts. Compare that to our sad 43 years in the European social and political experiment now called the European Union.

During those years we have surrendered our once sovereign democratically elected Parliament to the rule of foreign laws made by unelected and faceless EU bureaucrats. Our freedom to trade globally and with our real friends in the Commonwealth has been restricted and controlled by the EU which now governs our trade deals.

P JONSON
Walsall

Leaders treat us like sheep

IN the past and lately we seem to have been fed with statements made by our supposed leaders of this country. I get very angry that the people we should look up to are no longer capable of showing the status they are professing to be.

It appears that we are all treated as ignoramuses and stupid and are led as sheep. We are living in the reality of how this country is i.e. the problems in the NHS, the jobs and the pressures put on employers to replace pensions which they pay for national insurance.

I am afraid we are now governed by Great Europe I do believe our fathers gave their lives in the wars for nothing. It would be good to see all our fishermen fish again and all our farmers grow what our government planned again.

M JONES
Willenhall

Odd stance by the SNP

THE EU debate has thrown up many oddities, but none more strange than the SNP.

On one hand the SNP are intent on gaining independence of Westminster and to break up the United Kingdom, whilst on the other wanting to remain in the EU with all the interference from Brussels – with all the payments they would have to make to be a member, which they don't pay to be part of the UK.

They don't want to be ruled by someone they didn't vote for but do want to be told what to do by faceless politicians!

P JONSON
Walsall

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Remarkable! Pupils try commentary



Student Abbie Lawrence, aged 12, who was trying her hand at broadcasting during the BBC 5 live competition

A COMPETITION to find Britain's best young commentator has visited a school in Willenhall.

The BBC Radio 5 live bus visited Willenhall E-ACT Academy to inspire students to get involved in their nationwide search for talented young commentators.

The bus was parked up in the school's playground and offered masterclasses and workshops in the art of commentary.

It was the third of six stops at schools across the UK, as the bus tour stops off in Manchester, London, Wales, Scotland, Sheffield and Bir-

mingham. Mr Tom Ashley, Principal at Willenhall E-ACT Academy, said: "Having the 5 live bus with us for the day gave the students of Willenhall E-ACT Academy a chance to get some tips from the top and receive some invaluable career advice from people who work on a national radio station. I certainly want to hear passion and enthusiasm, but at the same time it is important to stay in control of your voice."

Correspondent

"We were really excited to welcome the 5 live team and hope it will inspire some of our students to have a go at entering the on line competition too."

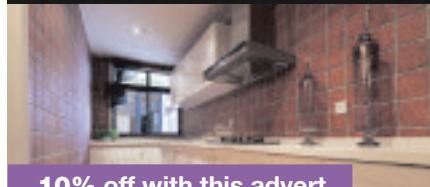
5 live football correspondent, John Murray, offered his tips for commenta-

tary hopefuls. He said: "You've got to remember you are commenting for the radio, not television, so words are extremely important as the action can't be seen. 'Reflect the excitement in your voice, think about pace and how you can build up to a crucial point. I certainly want to hear passion and enthusiasm, but at the same time it is important to stay in control of your voice."

The Young Commentator of the Year is open to boys and girls aged 11 to 15 and runs until Saturday.

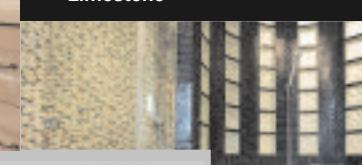
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Wartime airman finally laid to rest 72 years on

A WORLD War Two Lancaster bomber airman from Walsall who died after being shot down, was among those remembered at a ceremony in Germany.

The final resting place of the crew of Lancaster JB640, targeted during a bombing raid over Berlin in World War II was rededicated at Berlin's war cemetery.

Wireless operator Sgt Norman Henry Colebatch, from Leamore, was only 20 when he perished on January 3, 1944 and the rededication of the crew's graves came after years of research into their identities.

The rest of the crew were Pilot Officer John Donald Range Cromarty, Sgt Frederick Edwin Woolven, Sgt Norman Henry Colebatch, F/Sgt Leonard Norman Lapthorne, F/Sgt Dennis Frederick Burtenshaw, F/Sgt Reginald Dennis Collens and F/Sgt Kenneth Sidney James Chapman.

Honoured

Relatives of the crew were traced and more than 20 attended the service after the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) made a public appeal to find them.

Michael Woolven grandson of Sergeant Frederick Woolven said: "I am very honoured and proud to attend the service. It is a very special day and I am grateful for all the effort that has gone into arranging the service."

Nicola Nash of JCCC said: "We're delighted that after so long we are able to finally give the crew headstones at their final resting places."

Lancaster JB 640 was lost on a sortie to Berlin. The Germans later reported via the Red Cross that two of the crew, Flt Sgt Collens and Sg Woolven, and



The gravestones installed at the Wellington bomber crews' resting place



An RAF bugler plays the Last Post during the moving ceremony in Berlin five unknowns had died, but no burial details were provided.

After the war the Missing Research and Enquiries Unit (MREU) found a ring attached to the German investigation file, belonging to F/Sgt Burtenshaw. But, because of the difficulties investigating in the Russian Zone of Berlin in the immediate post-war era, MREU was unable to find any graves for this crew. All seven crew members

were commemorated on Runnymede Memorial and relatives were notified that further investigations would be made when possible.

It was only in 1976 that the Russians handed the remains of four individuals to the British authorities in Berlin, which the Russians said came from the crash site of a Second World War Lancaster Bomber found in East Berlin.

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Delight at awe-inspiring Typhoon

to go for free. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The Red Arrows will perform their awe-inspiring display and the Typhoon will rattle your bones and leave you wanting more.

From interactive exhibits getting children involved in science and technology to a 1950s feel in the Vintage Village, climbing into cockpits of fast jets, to finding that perfect souvenir in our Traders' market it's not just in the sky that you will be entertained.

This year the show will feature the world class training held at RAF Cosford and the RAF as a whole with displays on the ground and in the air. A dedicated hangar will showcase the evolution of the jet engine and



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the Air Cadets are celebrating their 75th anniversary with a display that will demonstrate the benefits of joining the organisation.

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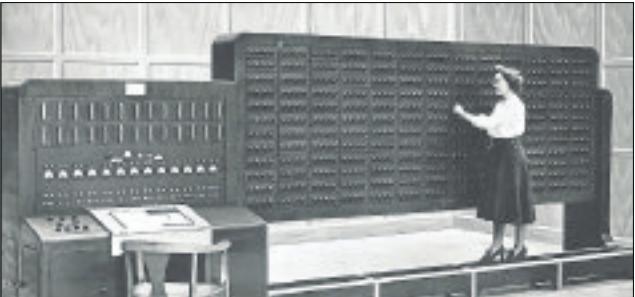
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Boulton & Paul Electrodive engine from a generating set on display at the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre

Aircraft firm took off in all directions

IN hard times the Wobaston Road firm of Boulton Paul Aircraft sometimes turned their hands to some unusual products to make ends meet.

Occasionally this was because one or other of their departments was at the cutting edge of engineering, and therefore leading the world. This was a company which originated as an ironmongers shop in Cockey Lane, Norwich in 1796.

It went on to cast many of the iron products they sold, and then became noted woodworkers, steel mesh weavers, and pre-fabricated-building manufacturers, sending pre-fab bungalows, chapels, and huts of all kinds across the world.

In 1915, when they had made everything from cast-iron manure carts to motor-boat engines, the Government asked them to have a go at making aeroplanes.

The aircraft department, made more Sopwith Camels than Sopwiths, the first all-metal aircraft ever delivered to the RAF, the biggest aircraft made in this country, the R.101 airship, and the first aircraft with a powered gun turret.

When the Aircraft Department was sold

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

off and came to Wolverhampton in 1936, it retained the versatility of the company it left behind.

It not only built aircraft, and gun turrets but went on to become a world-leader in powered-flying control units.

Its electronics department built one of the world's first main-frame computers, in 1950, its pressing department built panels for a variety of cars, and it also made such things as office chairs an all-metal commando canoe, and an oil-can dispensing unit for Esso.

Surprising

It also made parts of a surprising number of aircraft, Supermarine Swift jet fighter wings, Comet tailplanes, Handley Page Herald airliner wings, Beagle 206 wings and Short 360 parts.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre (open every Sunday) displays, not only Boulton Paul aircraft products, like Balliol cockpits, and a gun turret, but unusual things such as an engine from a 1920s generating set, a metal office chair, a Pendeford Multimeter and a Concorde power control unit.



An Esso oil-can dispensing unit in the 1960s

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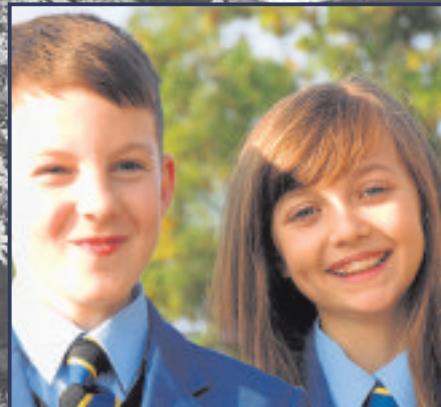
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'Sex offender, 50, in historic abuse avoids jail sentence'

A SEX offender who sexually abused a young girl has escaped being sent to prison for a second time.

The Solicitor-General Robert Buckland QC argued that 50-year-old Harvey Shaw's two-year suspended sentence was not a harsh enough punishment. Shaw, of Delves Green Road, Walsall was in his 20s in the late 1980s or early 1990s when he preyed on the girl, London's Appeal Court heard. His victim was aged just seven or eight, said Lord Justice Lloyd Jones.

Hop-picking mass exodus remembered

AN exhibition looking at the mass exodus of people from the Black Country who travelled to neighbouring counties for the hop-picking season is under way.

The Hop Project focuses on the movement of people from the region who would travel to Herefordshire and Worcestershire in the 19th and early-20th to pick hops.

This movement was brought to an end in the 1960s when the mechanisation of the hop industry brought to an end to the need for large numbers of workers to support the annual harvest.

It will be running in Sandwell from 2016 to 2017.

The exhibition is being shown at Oldbury Library from May 5 to May 28; Wednesbury Library from June 1 to July 2; Central Library from July 5 to 28; and Haden Hill House Museum, from August 4 to 25. For details visit www.thehopproject.co.uk

Louise Oakley, for the Solicitor-General, said Shaw's suspended sentence 'did not reflect the culpability of the offender and the resulting harm'.

She said the victim was 'vulnerable young child' who had suffered 'some psychological harm' because of what he did. But Janet Ironfield, for Shaw, said the regional manager had a clean record since 1997 and is now a married family man.

Lord Justice Lloyd Jones agreed that Shaw had 'turned his life around in a very positive way'. 'We consider it was open to the judge to impose a sentence of two years and to suspend that sentence,' he concluded. 'We are satisfied this sentence was not unduly lenient,' concluded the judge.

LAND on top of a mineshaft which is home to a Walsall social club has been branded a 'ticking time bomb' by developers. Bloxwich firm Simco made the comment after pulling out of plans to demolish Birchills Liberal Club and build around 35 flats.

Owner John Simmons said the entire area 'was on stilts' because the limestone mines underneath were left

Untreated mineshaft is a 'time bomb'



Birchills Liberal Club, where there is concern for the land's stability.

untreated in the 1990s when the Government filled others in around Walsall and the Black Country. The Simco boss claimed his firm had been left £73,000 out of pocket due to money spent on ecological surveys only now to be told that Walsall Council's ecological expert will never support development on the site.

Mr Simmons said: 'Apparently back in the 1990s the Government filled in the limestone shafts apart from this one area. The place is really a ticking time bomb. We believed there were a couple of unstable areas because of the mineshafts. My question for the coun-

Picture: Google Street View

cil is, what are they going to do about it?' The firm had a similar bid, for 48 flats, rejected by the council in 2014 for a number of reasons.

But Mr Simmons said his firm was 'encouraged' to put in another application providing they carried out extra surveys. He added: 'After the last one was refused the council encouraged us to carry out extra surveys but never advised us that we would never be able to develop on there. We spent £73,000. It is really annoying.'

Passenger refused to clean up sick

A DRUNKEN taxi passenger who assaulted the driver and wrecked the vehicle with a hammer after being asked to clean up his own vomit has been locked up for more than two years. Charlie Jones flew into a rage when the cabbie pulled over in Bloxwich Road North, Short Heath, and insisted he help wipe down the rear seat.

The short tempered scrap dealer swung punches at the 34-year-old victim before smashing the Vauxhall Vectra's windows and wing mirrors. He ran away but West Midlands Police dog Ivan and handler Jon Wood tracked the 19-year-old to a nearby canal towpath where he leapt into the icy water.

He punched Ivan in the head and ribs when the five year old German shepherd dog confronted the dripping thug as he emerged from the canal but the animal quickly brought him to the ground where the man was arrested by officers on October 18.

Damage

Jones from Goscote Place in Coalpool, Walsall admitted criminal damage, racially-aggravated assault and causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal. He was sent to a young offenders institution for two years three months by Judge Nicholas Webb sitting at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Police said: 'Jones threatened both Ivan and myself and shouted something like 'I'm not scared of the dog' – but that didn't appear to be the case when Ivan was released. He even jumped into the canal in a bid to escape but was quickly back on dry land and in the back of a police van.'

'He punched Ivan several times to the head and ribs but thankfully the dog didn't sustain any lasting injuries. It is fair to say the defendant came off worse and needed a few stitches in his thigh for a bite injury as Ivan defended himself.'

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4/5 DAYS FROM £179.95
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Seascapes/Bancourt Hotel
• Admission included to Eden Project
4 DAYS FRI 17 JUN, 22, 29 JUL, 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
5 DAYS MON 16 MAY, 13, 20, 27 JUN, 18, 25 JUL

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2 DAYS £99.95
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22, 29 JUN
5, 12, 19 AUG
23, 30 SEP
21 OCT

5 DAYS

MONDAYS
16, 30 MAY
6, 13, 27 JUN
4, 11, 18, 25 JUL
5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
3, 10, 24 OCT, 21 SEP

8 DAYS

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21 OCT

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Saturday, 7pm
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The American rockers who had a hit with Teenage Dirtbag and are fronted by Brendan B Brown (pictured), headline before supporting Busted at Genting and Barclaycard arenas. Visit www.wheatus.com

ROCK & POP

Yes

Tonight at 7.30pm, £39
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
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 Call 0121 780 3333

Corky Laing

Mon at 7.30pm - 11pm,
 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Jason Donovan

Wed at 8pm, £28.50 - £32.50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

II Divo

Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

BPop Live

Sun at 7pm,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Money For Nothing: Dire Straits Tribute

Thu at 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Travis

Thu at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Absolute Blondie: Tribute To Blondie

Thu at 7.30pm,
 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

From The Jam

Tonight at 7pm - 11pm,
 The Robin 2 Hotel,
 Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Reform Club

Tue at 7.30pm,
 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Carla Sings Dusty Springfield
 Sun at 3pm - 6pm,
 Fletchers bar, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 4434725

Too Rex: T Rex Tribute
 Tomorrow at 7pm,
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton,
 B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Kast Off Kinks
 Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £20
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Carlos Acosta



Friday and Saturday, 7.30pm
Birmingham Hippodrome

Returns only for these performances during the city's dance festival, in which the Royal Ballet's dynamic Cuban star says 'A Classical Farewell' before his retirement from ballet. Visit www.idfb.co.uk

Voulez Vous: Abba Tribute

Tonight at 7.30pm,
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Flight 15

Tonight at 6pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Wheatus

Tomorrow at 7pm,
 The Station, Upper Floor,
 Cannock Shopping Centre,
 WS11 1LS.

JAZZ, SOUL, FUNK, BLUES & MOTOWN

Jazzlines Free gigs: James Banner's Band

Tonight at 5pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
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 Call 0121 780 3333

Jazz House

Sun at 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
 Light House,
 Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Young Pilgrims

Tonight at 8.30pm,
 Hare & Hounds,
 Kings Heath,
 Birmingham,
 B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Matt Palmer's Rhythmic Reeds with Christine Tyrrell

Sun,
 Albrighton Sports & Social Club,
 WV17 3QT
 Call 01902 372523

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Brantley Gilbert

Tomorrow at 6pm, £16
 The Institute,
 Digbeth,
 Birmingham,
 B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Josienne Clarke And Ben Walker

Mon at 8pm,
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
 ST16 2LT
 Call 01785 254653

Dan Walsh

Tonight at 8pm,
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
 ST16 2LT
 Call 01785 254653

Big Boy Bloater

Sun at 7pm - 11pm,
 The Glee Club,
 Birmingham,
 B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

Brantley Gilbert



Saturday, 7pm
B'ham 02 Institute 2, Digbeth

This young American country music star is used to playing arenas statewide, but will probably relish a return to smaller venues. Visit www.o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

American Idiot



Tuesday to Saturday
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
 Singer-songwriter Newton Faulkner will star in the Grammy and Tony award-winning American punk rock musical alongside X Factor finalist Amelia Lily, feat. Green Day songs. Visit www.attickets.com

Bad Jews

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Ballet Theatre UK: Pinocchio

Tonight at 7.30pm,
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.

Call 01543 578762

CWAGMS: The Witches Of Eastwick

Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.

Call 01543 578762

Roy Hudd's Very Own Music Hall

Tonight at 7.30pm,
 Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.

Call 01630 654444

Joan

Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
 mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.

Call 0121 446 3232

The Arts Centre Telford: Sweet Charity

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.

Call 01952 382382

Graeme Of Thrones

Thu at 7.30pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.

Call 01543 412121

The Mousetrap

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
 Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.

Call 01743 281281

Margaret Thatcher Queen Of Soho

Tonight at 8pm, Tomorrow at 8pm,
 Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.

Call 0121 446 3232

Woody Sez: The Life & Music Of Woodie Guthrie

Sun at 7.30pm,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.

Call 0844 871 3011

Tribhangi Dance Theatre: Sukuma

Sun at 5pm,
 mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.

Call 0121 446 3232

The Glass Menagerie

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.

Call 01562 743745

English Touring Opera: Don Giovanni

Tue at 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.

Call 01902 573320

Volcano Theatre: Century Song

Tue at 8pm,
 mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.

Call 0121 446 3232

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Violence, sex and opera singing too

PREJUDICES against opera as being boring are likely to be blown away by English Touring Opera's acclaimed new productions of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*.

Human sacrifice and vampire-like villains feature in ETO's bloody new version of Gluck's opera set in the aftermath of the Trojan War.

Sung in French with English surtitles, the two and a half hour epic will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday.

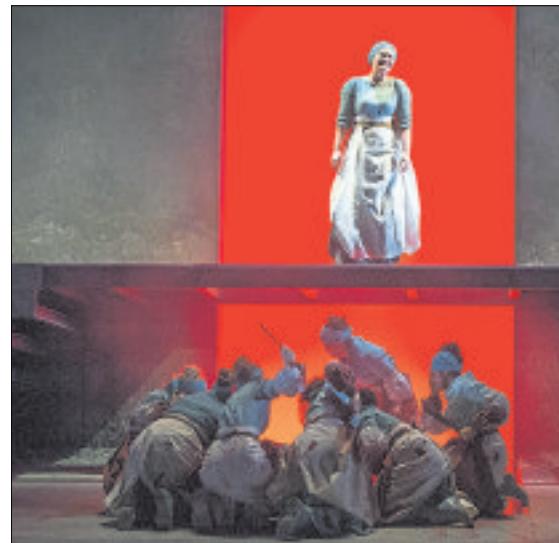
Tragedy

A brother and sister are reunited in the most heart-breaking circumstances in this Greek tragedy, directed for ETO by James Conway, designed by Anna Fleischle and with Martin André conducting. Due to perform at the Grand is Australian mezzo soprano Catherine Carby as *Iphigénie* and Australian-born baritone Grant Doyle as her brother *Oreste*.

Don Giovanni will be sung in English translation on Tuesday in a near three-hour production. Featuring opera's most famous anti-hero, director Lloyd Wood has set the story of the serial seducer and his long-suffering servant in the sewers of Vienna circa 1900. Australian-born baritone Nicholas Lester is due to play the dirty *Don* in Wolverhampton with former G4 bass Matthew Stiff as his servant *Leporello*.

To book visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429 212.

There will be further highlights for opera fans next month when Welsh



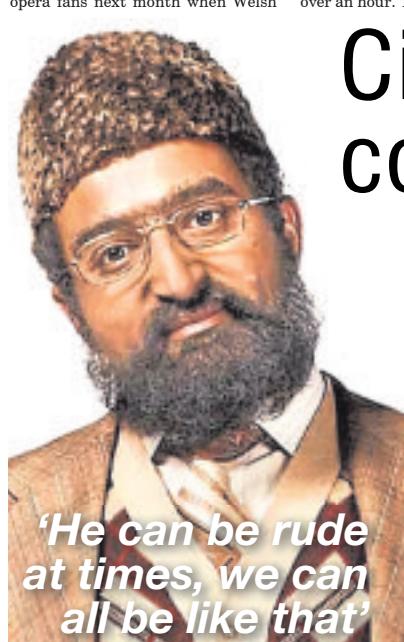
ETO's *Iphigénie en Tauride* (front *Don Giovanni*) Photo: Richard Hubert Smith

National Opera makes a return visit to Birmingham Hippodrome, this time featuring the classics *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*.

WNO celebrates its 70th birthday with the double bill of *Cav & Pag*. Each opera packs in much high drama and powerful music in just over an hour. The double bill, sung in

Italian with English surtitles, will be at the Hippodrome on June 9 and 11.

On June 10 WNO perform *In Parenthesis*, young British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by David Jones about First World War soldiers who enter a magical wood amid the horror of the Somme.



'He can be rude at times, we can all be like that'

Alt-rockers Wussy and Chastity Belt

OHIO alt-rock outfit Wussy play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath tomorrow (Friday). The same venue hosts London singer-songwriter Isaac Gracie on Monday and on Wednesday, from Walla Walla Washington, feminist rockers Chastity Belt.

Ran Boy's gig at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tonight is sold out, Cuban-American Goth Aurelio Voltaire holds court tomorrow and MC Lethal Bizzle is at the venue on Saturday.

Ian McNabb's band The Icicle Works are at the O2 Academy tomorrow and bands from Stafford College have a showcase at the venue on Wednesday. Tomorrow The Treatment are at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms.

Living for rock and a tribute to da Vinci

THEATRE meets gig when Middle Child Theatre of Hull bring Weekend Rockstars to Birmingham Rep's The Door venue tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

Written by Luke Barnes with original music by James Frewer, it tells of three young people who live for the weekend and rock music.

As part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham Csaba Molnar performs *Eclipse* in a double bill with duo Jinx 103 at the Patrick Centre (in the Hippodrome). On Tuesday and Wednesday the Hippodrome hosts the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.

Festival celebrates a world of dance

INTERNATIONAL Dance Festival Birmingham on Saturday features a free six hour dance spectacular beside the Bullring from noon.

From tonight to Saturday there are sold out performances at Birmingham Hippodrome by Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta, part of his farewell to ballet.

Tomorrow and Saturday Csaba Molnar performs *Eclipse* in a double bill with duo Jinx 103 at the Patrick Centre (in the Hippodrome). On Tuesday and Wednesday the Hippodrome hosts the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.

The festival continues until May 22, see www.idfb.co.uk

entertainment

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Child £7



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THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK

Wednesday 11th -
Saturday
14th May
7.30pm

TICKETS
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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. **(R) 12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Doha. **Highlights.** **2.00** The FA Cup Final. **2.30** Rugby League: Castleford Tigers v Salford Red Devils (kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Can't Touch This.

6.15 Pointless Celebrities. Toby Anstis and Jenni Falconer, Janice Long and Bob Harris, Peter White and Steve Punt, and Angie Greaves and Steve Punt take part in the general knowledge quiz.

7.05 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. The comedian hosts another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This week, he is joined on stage by fellow stand-up Rob Beckett, and introduces an acrobatic dance performance by Romeo of the Cirque du Soleil. He also invites electro-pop trio Years and Years to play for the assembled live audience, and a handyman receives the surprise of his life when he becomes the Unexpected Star of the Show.

Plus, Michael hijacks Strictly Come Dancing judge Bruno Tonioli's mobile phone, composing another embarrassing message to deliver to his contacts in Celebrity Send To All.

8.00 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Including: The London and Thunderbird draws.

8.50 Casualty. New consultant Elle Gardner's first day in the ED proves to be a baptism of fire.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes goes on a diet after her son's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. **(R)**

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Leicester City v Everton and Norwich City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Peter Kay's Comedy Shitface. This selection includes Peter talks about dogs on This Morning. **(R)**

12.25 Film: Mad City. (1997) Hostage drama, starring John Travolta. **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. **(R) 8.00** MasterChef: The Finals. **(R) 9.00** MasterChef: The Finals. **(R) 10.00** The Women's Football Show. **(R) 10.30 Film:** Saturday's Secretaries. **(R) 11.00** The Harry Bikers' Everyday Gourmets. **(R) 1.00** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 1.45** Escape to the Continent. **(R) 2.45** Escape to the Continent. **(R) 3.30** The Harry Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain. **(R) 4.00** Flug It! **(R)**

5.00 Bake Off: Crème de la Crème. **(R)**

6.00 Gardeners' World. Horticultural ideas and advice. **(R)**

6.30 Attenborough's Passion Project: A Blank on the Map. The BBC marks David Attenborough's 90th birthday by revisiting four of his "passion projects", beginning with the 1971 programme in which he met elusive tribesmen in New Guinea.

7.30 Attenborough's Passion Project: The Lost Gods of Easter Island. A documentary from 2000, in which David Attenborough traces the origins of a mysterious carved figure he bought in New York back to the natives of Easter Island.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mervyn Waring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. **(R)**

9.00 The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Henry VI Part I. New series. The acclaimed adaptation of Shakespeare's historical plays returns. England's defeat in the Hundred Years War divides the court of Henry VI. Drama, starring Tom Sturridge, Sophie Okonedo and Hugh Bonneville.

10.50 Film: Zodiac. (2007) Fact-based crime thriller about the tortuous hunt for a mysterious serial killer who terrorised San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s, and taunted the police and media with cryptic messages. Three men became obsessed with identifying the murderer after his reign of terror inexplicably stopped, but their fixation with the case took a heavy toll on their lives. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo and Brian Cox.

1.20 Film: Kick. (2009) Two teenage girls learn their favourite footballer is transferring to Real Madrid, so kidnap him to make him stay. Comedy drama, with Kerie Hayes and Nichola Burley.

2.40 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **(R) 6.25** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 7.00** Signed Stories: Super Stories. **(R) 7.15** Super Stories. **(R) 7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. **(R) 8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **(R) 8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 10.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.24** Regional Programme. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 1.30** BBQ Champ. **(R) 2.30** Film: Despicable Me. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell.

4.30 The Wipe Show. **5.30 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.45** ITV News. **6.00** You've Been Framed! Finest.

Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires and a teenager who finds a cockroach in his dinner.

7.00 Bang on the Money. Game show in which two teams from Essex and Newcastle aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec introduce more coverage from the nationwide talent show's touring audition stage, now in its fifth week. As the acts hoping up to be crowned as the 10th champion in the history of the competition. Reports suggest only one Golden Buzzer remains, meaning one of last week's acts was impressive enough to tempt either Ant and Dec or Simon Cowell to put them through to the semi without further ado. It remains to be seen whether any of this week's crop of performers will be able to wow the judges to the extent that the final Buzzer will be used.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Wilfried Zaha, Funmi Omotayo and Rochelle Humes join Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh for the sports-based comedy show.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Film: Body of Lies. (2008) A CIA agent pursuing a terrorist is caught between allegiance to his superior and the local intelligence chief. Ridley Scott's thriller, with Leonardo DiCaprio.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. **(R) 6.35** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The (R) 10.30 Film: Flipped.

11.00 The Sunburnt Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.35** Homes by the Med.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales follow the ancient routes of the Vikings and travel to Stockholm, where they navigate the city's canals. They later head out into the far-flung islands of the archipelago, before paying a visit to Drottningholm Palace Theatre, where they meet Wallander actor Krister Henriksson. **(R)**

8.00 Coastal Walks with My Dog. More celebrity dog-walkers embark on jaunts along some of Britain's most scenic coastline routes, with their trusty canine companions in tow. This, properly show presenter Phil Spencer visits the White Cliffs of Dover, while adventurer Ben Fogle walks along a path with a connection of the spiritual past of North Wales. Plus, Angela Griffin takes her new puppy on an adventure near Whitby in North Yorkshire.

9.00 Film: Prometheus. (2012) A spacecraft is sent to another world, where it finds a left in ancient artefact in search of aliens that may have created the human race. However, the explorers on board discover the extraterrestrials may not be the benevolent creatures they imagined, while the company funding the expedition has its own agenda. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller and Alien prequel, starring Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba.

11.25 Film: Alien. (1979) A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver.

1.40 Hollyoaks. **(R) 3.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R) 4.00** Location, Location, Location. **(R) 4.55** Four Rooms. **(R) 5.50** The King of Queens. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.40** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **(R) 12.10** Police Interceptors. **(R) 1.05** Police Interceptors. **(R) 2.05** Police Interceptors. **(R) 3.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 4.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R)**

Agree, Stewart and Elton are met with lies and aggression when they track down nearly £3,000 owned by a garage mechanic, while Steve and Ben encounter a retired couple who are being forced to leave their home. Stuart and Vic revisit a young debtor who owe £750 for a laptop computer, and in Oxfordshire, Paul and Steve chase £30,000 owed by a world-famous Formula One racing team. **(R)**

7.00 NCIS. The first installment of a two-part crossover with NCIS: New Orleans, in which the DC team co-operates with their Louisiana counterparts.

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. The final part of a crossover with the original NCIS series. Ellie Bishop flies to New Orleans to help Pride track down the person responsible for the aircraft murders.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the top matches from the final day of the Championship season, including Middlesbrough v Brighton & Hove Albion.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.

A round-up of all the goals from the final day of the season in League Two. Plus, a look at all the talking points.

10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. McGee kills an undercover police officer while on duty, and Jenny's approval of an investigation into the death places a strain on her relationship with Gibbs. **(R)**

11.20 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. Tony and Ziva disappear while looking for smuggled weapons at a shipyard, leaving the rest of the team struggling to find them before they come to harm. **(R)**

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Now That's Funny! **(R) 4.00** The Tube: Going Underground. **(R) 4.50** Divine Designs. **(R) 5.20** HouseBusters. **(R) 5.45** Angels of Jarm. **(R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 What Do Artists Do All Day? **7.30** BBC Young Musician 2016 **9.00** 11.30 Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **11.30** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **12.30** An Evening with Glen Campbell **1.30** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.00 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.00** Scorpion **12.30** Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **1.50** FYI Daily

1.55 Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **2.45** Britain's Got Talent **3.45** Britain's Got More Talent **4.00** Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **5.40** FYI Daily

5.15 Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **6.30** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **8.30** FYI Daily

8.35 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **9.15** FYI Daily **9.35** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **9.45** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** Film: American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** at elevenish

ITV3

1.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Midsummers Murders

8.00 Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.00** Northern Lights

ITV4

12.50 Film: No Name on the Bullet (1951) **1.55** Film: The Devil **2.45** Film: No Name on the Bullet (1959) **2.55** British Superstars: Championships Highlights **3.25**

3.45 Film: The Big Fish Off 4.30 Film: The Dam Busters (1954) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: The Dam Busters (1954) **7.00** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **8.10** Film: Double Jeopardy (1999) **9.11** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: The Big Lebowski (1998) **10.15** Film: The Big Lebowski (1998) **2.20** Paws Stars

E4

11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Film: Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.00**

1.15 Film: The Inbetweeners **2.00** Tattoo Fixers **3.00** Gogglebox **3.50** A to Z **4.10** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **1.00** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **2.40** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **4.25**

5.45 School of Rock (2003) **6.35** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Red Eye (2005) **10.40** The Warriors (1979) **12.30** The Bunker (2015) **2.15** Apartment 143 (2011)

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CHOICE



David Attenborough

Attenborough at 90 (BBC1, 7pm)

Kirsty Young talks to David Attenborough about his life and career, discussing his travels around the world and most memorable encounters with wildlife. The programme features footage from his many natural history programmes, including scenes where unusual animal behaviour was caught on camera for the first time, and celebrates his influence on generations of viewers' understanding of the natural world. Featuring contributions from friends and colleagues including Michael Palin and Chris Packham.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** MasterChef: The Finals. (R) **1.15** BBC News: Weather. **1.30** Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Invictus: The Road to the Games. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker visits the Dartington Estate in South Devon, where ice cream is made from goat's milk and vertical farming projects are carried out. Anita Rani investigates sheepskin and handmade soap. Adam Henson meets livestock bred for conservation, and Tom Heap reports on a controversial tradition in Malta. Plus, coverage of the Food and Farming Awards and the announcement of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.00 **Attenborough at 90**. Kirsty Young talks to David Attenborough about his life and career. Featuring footage from his many natural history programmes and contributions from colleagues and friends.

8.00 **House of Fraser British Academy Television Awards 2016**. Graham Norton hosts the prestigious TV awards show from London's Royal Festival Hall. Programmes nominated this year include Wolf Hall, Humans, Adele at the BBC, Doctor Foster, I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! and First Dates, while stars up for awards include Idris Elba, Hugh Bonneville, Miranda Hart, Peter Kay, Stephen Fry and Graham himself.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton.

11.45 Film: **Smart People**. (2008) A misanthropic professor's self-absorption threatens his faltering relationship with a former student. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Page.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R) **7.15** This Farming Life. (R) **8.15** Gardeners' World. **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen. **11.00** Bites. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Invictus: The Road to the Games. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.30 **Flog It!** Paul Martin, Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey head to National Museum Cardiff, where valuable finds include a set of Swansea porcelain plates and a child's tea set. (R)

7.00 **Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF**. Documentary following the Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatics display team, through a demanding summer display season. The pilots reveal the tricks of the trade as they prepare to carry out an ambitious performance over Buckingham Palace and fly a salute to the Queen. (R)

8.00 **Burma's Secret Jungle War with Joe Simpson**. The first of two programmes in which the mountaineer travels to Burma to tell the story of a guerrilla campaign fought behind Japanese lines in the Second World War, which his own father was a part of. Guided by his father's old maps and diaries, he goes in search of the army where his special forces soldiered on in the country. However, his journey is thrown into upheaval by current political events in Myanmar.

9.00 **Hillsborough**. Documentary exploring Britain's worst stadium disaster, in which 96 people were killed and hundreds more injured. The tragic events of April 15, 1989, are recounted in depth, with personal testimony from survivors, family members and police officers, many of whom are speaking publicly for the first time. The programme also explores the aftermath of the tragedy, looking at the 27-year campaign for justice.

11.00 Film: **Robot & Frank**. (2012) An elderly thief is bought a robot carer by his son, and teaches the machine to help him carry out one last heist. Sci-fi comedy drama, starring Frank Langella.

12.25 Sign Zone: **Countryfile**. (R) **1.20** Holby City. (R) **2.15** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Treks' Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Star & Story. (R) **7.15** The King of Sunsets. (R) **7.30** Noddy & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.05** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.15** Fierce. (R) **3.20** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.55 **The Chase Celebrity Special**. Bradley Walsh is joined as Westlife's Nicky Byrne, Olympian Amy Williams, Natalie Cassidy (EastEnders' Sonja Jackson) and Dave Myers of The Hairy Bikers pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 **The Durrells**. The family prepares for a celebration, and Margo is determined to persuade the Countess to attend. Gerry considers releasing his animals into the wild. Last in the series.

9.00 **Home Fires**. The village prepares for Nick and Teresa's wedding as the Battle of Britain draws to an end, while Pat has a decision to make as Marek prepares to leave. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 **Her Majesty's Prison: Norwich**. Documentary detailing the harsh realities of prison life at HMP Norwich, which houses more than 750 adult inmates and young offenders. (R)

11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union**. Action from the 22nd and final round of regular-season fixtures, including Bath v Leicester Tigers, Newcastle Falcons v Sale Sharks, and Wasps v London Irish.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.55** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **The King of Queens**. (R) **6.40** **The King of Queens**. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** IPC Swimmers. (R) **8.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.15** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Film: **Lilo & Stitch**. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. **3.50** Film: **The Rescuers**. (1977) Disney animated adventure, with Eva Gabor. **5.25** The Tiny Tots Talent Agency. **6.30** **Channel 4 News**.

7.00 **The World's Most Famous Train**. During its nine-month-long season, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express makes over 60 journeys, covering 150,000 kilometres, with the majority of trips between London and Venice. The train is comprised of 17 unique 1920s carriages that have transported a host of elite individuals across Italy, Switzerland, and Turkey for more than a century. This documentary follows the stories of the staff and passengers as the train makes its way across Europe, with some customers having paid more than £2,000 for the privilege. (R)

8.00 **Paul Merton's Secret Stations**. The comedian's tour of Britain's request steam railway stations takes him to Pontefract in West Yorkshire, famous for weddings, where he helps a bride to choose a dress and sings with the local male voice choir. He also gets off the train at Beasdale in the Scottish Highlands, near a famous training site for spies during the Second World War, and discovers why there is a request stop in the middle of a Bristol.

9.00 **Indian Summers**. Charlie discovers his wife's affair, and makes plans to have Aafrin hanged for treason. The new viceroy is announced, and Ralph realises he has been the victim of a conspiracy.

10.00 **Gogglebox**. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

12.10 **Film: Extract**. (2010) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.00** Four Rooms. (R) **5.55** Will & Grace. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pals. (R) **7.10** Noddy. (R) **7.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pig Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Bob and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.10** Jolly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.00** The Cheap Life of Puppies. (R) **2.00** Film: **Ace Ventura: Pet Detective**. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **3.35** Film: **The Fifth Element**. (1997) Sci-Fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis. **5.55** News Weekend.

6.00 **Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**. (1991) An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his family has been murdered and the local people are oppressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Edited for language.

9.00 **Greats Ever 90s Movies**. A countdown of some of the most memorable films from the last decade of the 20th century.

11.50 **Goal Rush: League One – The Final Day**. A round-up of all the goals from the final day of the season in League One. Plus, a look at all the talking points and the latest league tables.

12.35 **Film: Reservoir Dogs**. (1992) A failed robbery ends in a bloodbath, and as the criminals try to work out whether someone betrayed them, Quentin Tarantino's thriller, with Harvey Keitel and Tim Roth. **2.20** **SisterCasino**. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming. **4.00** **Great Scientists**. (R) **4.50** **Great Artists**. A profile of English painter, JMW Turner, who divided critics with his tendency toward abstraction, but is now hailed as a genius. (R) **5.20** **Divine Design**. Paul Binski chronicles the history of Britain's religious art, examining the baroque churches of Great Withey and Little Stanmore, which were built by wealthy industrialists. (R) **5.45** **Angels of Jarm**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 **A History of Ancient Britain**. **8.00** **Forest, Field & Sky: Art Out of Nature**. **9.00** **The Silk Road**. **10.00** **The Sky at Night**. **10.30** **Film: Ran** (1985). **1.05** **Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor**. **2.35** **The Silk Road**. **3.35** **Close**.

ITV2

11.30 **Take Me Out**. **12.20** **Catchphrase**. **1.00** **Film: You've Got Mail** (1998). **2.05** **Film: You've Got Mail** (2005). **4.30** **FYI Daily**. **4.35** **Film: Nanny McPhee** (2005). **5.05** **Film: Britain's Got Talent**. **6.50** **Britain's Got More Talent**. **7.50** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008). **8.50** **FYI Daily**. **8.55** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008). **10.00** **Film: Guy**. **12.00** **American Dad!**. **12.55** **The Cleveland Show**. **1.50** **Totally Bonkers** **Guinness World Records**.

ITV3

12.35 **Foyle's War**. **2.40** **Film: Columbo**. **Etude in Black** (1972). **4.15** **Film: City of Angels** (1998). **5.15** **FYI Daily**. **5.20** **Film: City of Angels** (1998). **6.15** **Film: Wilson on the Road**. **7.00** **Doc Martin**.

8.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs**. **8.30** **Film: Stories 9.00** **An Audience with Barry Manilow**. **10.00** **The Blonde Bombshell**. **12.20** **Inspector Morse**. **2.20** **Blue Murder**. **3.10** **May the Best House Win**. **4.50** **On the Buses**. **5.15** **Judge Judy**.

ITV4

11.00 **Live British Touring Car Championship**. Coverage of round three from Thruxton. **5.20** **British Touring Cars – Croft and Smashes**. **6.30** **Pawn Stars**. **7.00** **The Wine Show**. **9.00** **Film: Escape from New York** (1981). **10.00** **FYI Daily**. **10.05** **Film: Escape from New York** (1981). **11.05** **Film: On Deadly Ground** (1994). **12.05** **FYI Daily**. **12.10** **Film: On Deadly Ground** (1994). **1.05** **Fifth Gear**. **2.05** **Hogan's Heroes**. **2.40** **Films Now**.

E4

12.30 **Made in Chelsea**. **1.35** **Joe & Casper Hit the Road**. **2.35** **The Big Bang Theory**. **3.50** **Film: We Bought a Zoo** (2011). **8.00** **The Big Bang Theory**. **9.00** **Film: Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** **10.00** **Tattoo Fixers**. **11.00** **The Inbetweeners**. **12.05** **The Inbetweeners**. **2.00** **Film: Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** **2.20** **How I Met Your Mother**. **2.50** **Gogglebox**. **3.30** **Holyoaks**.

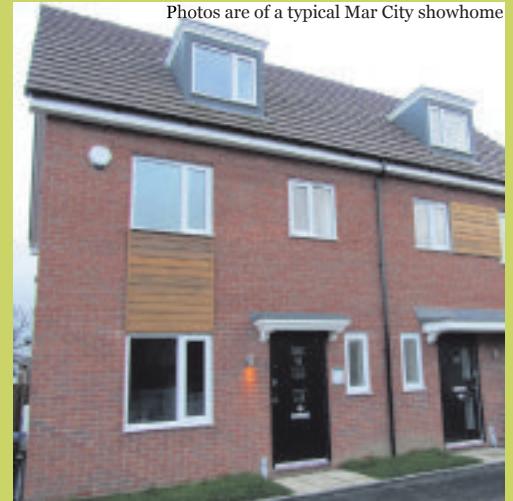
Film4

11.00 **Millions** (2004). **1.00** **Biggles** (1986). **2.50** **Krull** (1983). **5.10** **Journey to the Center of the Earth** (2008). **7.00** **Unstoppable** (2010). **9.00** **Speed** (1994). **11.15** **Crash** (2004). **1.30** **Kramer vs Kramer** (1979). **3.45** **Close**.

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 11.10pm

James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head, and who now intends to destroy the world's supply of oil. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (1999)

TUESDAY

A Date to Die For, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A recent divorcee, suffering from bipolar disorder, accepts a date with a single father. The next morning, she awakens to find her date's dead body in her bed, a knife plunged in his chest. Trying to piece together her memories of the previous night, she sets out to defend her reputation and the lives of her family by locating the killer herself. Thriller, starring Victoria Pratt. (2015)



Alex Cross, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY

Left for Dead, Channel 5, 3.20pm

After being left for dead, a detective develops amnesia and remembers nothing about her life or family. As she struggles to recall her past, she discovers that the road to recovery may threaten the safety of her husband and daughter. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm, Tygh Runyan and Neil Napier. (2014)

THURSDAY

Patient Killer, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A hypnotherapist specialising in dreams blames herself for failing to prevent a patient's suicide two years ago. After setting up a new practice, she wonders if history is repeating itself when a new client with a similar condition asks for her help. Psychological thriller, starring Victoria Pratt. (2015)

FRIDAY

Alex Cross, Channel 5, 10pm

A homicide cop pursues an ex-military assassin who has sadistically tortured and murdered a wealthy executive, leaving a surreal clue to the next victim. However, as the detective tries to bring the killing spree to an end, he finds his own family is also in the firing line. Crime thriller, starring Tyler Perry. (2012)

David hopes to play his new role just wright

As well as the Queen and David Attenborough's 90th birthdays, it probably hasn't escaped your notice that the BBC has recently been marking another significant date – the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare.

There have already been several programmes to mark the event across the Beeb, including last month's *Shakespeare Live!* From the RSC and the star-studded *The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses*, which began on Saturday.

We've still got Russell T Davies' take on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to come (featuring Matt Lucas as Bottom, Maxine Peake as Titania and Bernadette Cribbins as Snout), but for many people the most intriguing part of the season is the new sitcom *Upstart Crow*.

That's because it's been scripted by Ben Elton, a man with an impressive track record when it comes to historical comedy. He co-wrote three series of *Blackadder*, meaning he's already familiar with the Elizabethan era (and the Bard made a cameo appearance in the special *Blackadder*:

Back & Forth, where he was played by Colin Firth).

So, in theory Elton shouldn't have needed to do much additional research for *Upstart Crow*, which is set in 1592 as the playwright begins to make a name for himself in London, while trying to balance his responsibilities to his family back in Stratford-upon-Avon. However, Elton did throw himself into the period spirit, saying: "I have tried very hard to transport myself into Shakespeare's creative world, writing only with a small chicken feather and not changing my underpants for a year."

Fortunately, that didn't deter an impressive cast from signing up for *Upstart Crow*, including *Peep Show's* David Mitchell, who is playing Shakespeare. But then, as he points out, it's such a rare opportunity, it must have been difficult to pass up.

Mitchell says: "I'm delighted to be playing England's greatest bard at this difficult time for bards everywhere. You just try getting work as a bard these days. It's virtually impossible."

He's joined by Harry Enfield (who

can also currently be seen as Prince Charles in Channel 4's *The Windsors*) and sitcom veteran Paula Wilcox as Shakespeare's parents, John and Mary. Liza Tarbuck plays his wife Anne and *Raised By Wolves'* Helen Monk is his daughter Susannah.

Mark Heap is also on board as the Bard's nemesis Robert Greene – aka the man who once described Shakespeare as an 'upstart crow' and gave the sitcom its title.

That points to another theme in the series – one that should make it easier for audiences to accept the most influential and iconic writer in the history of the English language as something of an upstart dog. As producer Mark Edwards told *The Independent*: "Shakespeare is a middle-class nerd with a lot of talent trying to make his mark on a system geared to favour the titled and those with an Oxford education."

In the opening episode, his struggles also include trying to find inspiration for one of his most famous characters while dealing with an angry actor, an annoying guest, and his family's script suggestions.

David Mitchell stars in *Upstart Crow*, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Invictus Games 2016

BBC1, 7.30pm

New series. Gabby Logan and Ade Adepitan present coverage from Orlando, Florida, of the second staging of the international multi-sport event for wounded, injured or sick armed forces personnel and veterans, which had its inaugural event two years ago in London. Featuring highlights of the opening ceremony, which featured appearances by patron Prince Harry and First Lady Michelle Obama, as well as performances by James Blunt, Laura Wright and Gareth Malone's *Invictus Choir*.

TUESDAY

Penguin A&E with Lorraine Kelly

Channel 5, 9pm

It may come as a surprise to anyone whose knowledge of penguin behaviour derives from the movie *Happy Feet*, but not all of the birds live in a winter wonderland. One species has made its home near one of South Africa's busiest cities, Cape Town, which is every bit as dangerous as any frozen wasteland, especially when the flightless birds waddle into traffic. Now, Lorraine Kelly is heading to South Africa to meet the team who are working to save the endangered species in the continent's busiest penguin emergency department.

The hospital rescues more than 1,500 vulnerable penguins each year – which in this opening episode includes Bandit, who has been brought in with a fish hook in his stomach, and Nipper, who has been bitten by a rogue dog.

WEDNESDAY

Killer Women with Piers Morgan

ITV, 9pm

Piers Morgan is taking a break from the *Good Morning Britain* sofa and heading back to America for this hard-hitting two part documentary, which sees him meeting some of the US's most notorious female murderers and discovering what drove them to kill. He begins his journey in Gatesville, Texas, where he speaks to Erin Caffey, who at the age of just 16 conspired with her boyfriend to kill her parents and two younger brothers, and is now due to stay behind bars until she is nearly 60. Despite being shot five times, her father, Terry, survived the tragedy that claimed the rest of his family and has made the incredible choice to forgive his daughter, visiting her in prison every month. But while Terry and Erin insist that

her boyfriend Charlie was the driving force behind the murders, Piers discovers that not everyone agrees with that version of events.

THURSDAY

Peaky Blinders

BBC2, 9pm

On the orders of the secretive Economic League, Tommy goes to London to meet the wildly eccentric and volatile Duke Leon – and when he is given his mission, he soon realises the extreme lengths his new paymasters are willing to go to in their quest for power. Back in Birmingham, John's temper gets the better of him, and a personal dispute with the Italians threatens to explode into a devastating war. Tommy struggles to regain control of the situation – only to



Killer Women with Piers Morgan, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

discover how extensive his new enemy's hold on the Peaky Blinders is. Cillian Murphy, Helen McCrory and Joe Cole star, with an appearance by Paddy Considine (*The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*).

FRIDAY

Revealed – The Truth About the Holy Grail

Channel 5, 8pm

The legend of the Holy Grail has taken many forms throughout history, but it has always identified the Grail as the cup Jesus drank from during the Last Supper. However, the whereabouts of the cup has been a subject of intense speculation for centuries. Back in 2011, León University medieval history lecturer Margarita Torres and art historian José Manuel Ortega del Río discovered two remarkable Arab parchments at Cairo's University of al-Azhar that appeared to offer important new clues. However, in Europe alone there are 200 supposed holy grails, so is the precious goblet in León's San Isidro basilica the real one?

MUM

BBC2, 10pm

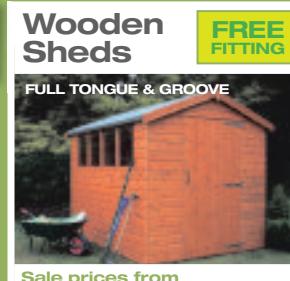
New series. A woman forced to deal with the death of her husband determines to find out who she is and possibly seek new romance. Family comedy, starring Lesley Manville.

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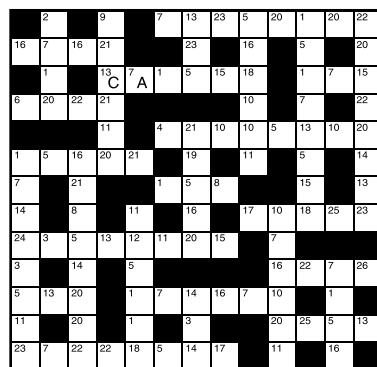
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	X	J	R	D	L	I	K	O	G	C	I	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Y	W	U	E	A	Q	T	V	N	Z	H	M
13	26	C										

Quiz

- Which actress was the BBC's Girl Friday in a 1994 TV series?
- In which US state is the Grand Canyon?
- From which word are 'tsar' and 'Kaiser' derived?
- Which herb is also called milfoil?
- Which unit is defined as one nautical mile per hour?
- Which Russian writer declined the 1958 Nobel prize for literature?
- In which country are the Southern Alps, highest point Mount Cook?
- Who was World Snooker Champion six times in the 1970s?
- What is the world's southernmost active volcano?
- From which fruit is the drink Tokay made?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Tasmania; 2 Antelope; 3 St. Andrews; 4 Length; 5 Steven Spielberg; 6 Thomas Beecham; 7 Jurassic; 8 National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers; 9 Fifth column; 10 Myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Niner: NEIGHBOUR

Down

- Still, it might result in interference (6)
- Lost, as a dog may be (6)
- Single-minded concentration before starting the job (13)
- Speed too much, and go over the limit (7)
- She's back in the scene, right on cue (5)
- Rings the wrong shop about nothing (5)
- We're clean out of them! (5)
- Act for each class (7)
- Habits of a wise man in America (6)
- Performer makes a start that is different (7)
- Takes the plunge without consulting the directors? (4,9)
- About eleven, the ship moves off (6)
- He shares what's left (2-4)

Down

- It may be used to weaken the spirit (6)
- A fair exchange in view? (2,3,3,2,3)
- Suffer part of the main current (5)
- One stays with it (7)
- To take up the post is to increase the risk (5,3,5)
- Northern statesman? (6)
- The poet is very ardent! (5)
- Act for each class (7)
- Habits of a wise man in America (6)
- Possibly means to provide titles (5)
- One who minds is easily hurt (6)
- Let the sailor in as well, though it's forbidden (5)
- Motive (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

- Tremble (6)
- Expurgate (6)
- Remonstrance (13)
- Wandered (7)
- Courtyard (5)
- Construct (5)
- Hold off (5)
- Automaton (5)
- Repartee (7)
- Confusion (13)
- Threefold (6)
- Motive (6)

Down

- Feeling sick (6)
- Always calm (13)
- Attempt (5)
- Specimen (7)
- Inefficiency (13)
- Haphazard (6)
- Conduct (5)
- To the letter (7)
- Minister (6)
- Wide (5)
- Defeated (6)
- Dough (5)

Sudoku

2								8
8	4	1		5	6	2		
						4	5	9
6						5	3	
1			6		3		4	
	3	7	2				1	
9		8					3	
5	3	6				9	4	
3						9		1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
5 3 7 1 2 1 6 4 8 9
9 4 6 7 3 8 2 1 5
2 8 1 5 9 4 7 6 3
1 2 9 4 5 7 3 5 8
3 6 5 4 8 2 9 5 7
6 5 1 4 3 6 8 9 2
9 1 3 6 7 4 9 5 7 2
7 6 5 1 2 3 8 9 4
4 9 2 8 7 5 6 3 1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Astonishment; 7 Sidle; 8 Theta; 9 Ice; 10 Faithless; 11 Erects; 12 Polish; 15 Touch-wood; 17 Ass; 18 Redan; 19 Drone; 21 Free-thinkers. Down: 1 Architecture; 2 Nod; 3 Scenic; 4 Matchwood; 5 Niece; 6 Cat's whiskers; 7 Swede; 10 Prowl; 13 Jig; 14 Hooligan; 16 Uproar; 19 Owl; 20 Prowl; 21 Pattern; 22 Green; 7 Appal; 9 Litter; 9 Nip; 10 Antropose; 11 Locate; 12 Cobweb; 15 Trappings; 17 Tor; 18 Exact; 19 Slot; 21 Playing field. Down: 1 Plain clothes; 2 Imp; 3 Galore; 4 Religious; 5 Eaten; 6 Reverberated; 7 Aspic; 10 Antipathy; 13 Watch; 14 Unison; 16 Avail; 20 Oaf.

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Members of staff outside Stourbridge's Pizza Express following the refurbishment



Diavolo pizza, thin and crispy, and made before your very eyes



Aiming to please, Lydia Orrell, manager Louise Kitson and Andy Steventon



The much-vaunted delicious dough balls



Pasta to please – the lasagna classica

Express delight at bits and pizzas of Italian in new-look restaurant

PIZZA, not something I would normally consider present on my radar, so a food review of **Pizza Express**? Well, as they say, when in Rome...

For many years now Pizza Express has been offering top-notch Italian delicacies from its High Street restaurant in Stourbridge, and has recently undergone a fabulous transformation.

Walking in, you are immediately aware of clean lines – sleek, but with a hint of the traditional – harking back to the building's previous incarnation as Cranage's Tea Rooms, and Royal Turf Lounge Bar. The frontage, once strewn with cakes and other baking delights to tempt passers-by, is now a window onto diners enjoying their meals, with excellent, attentive service, in relaxed, stylish surroundings.

As I say, I'm no expert, but having settled down with a nice spicy Shiraz, I plumped for the calamari as starter, while my wife, a die-hard pizza/pasta aficionado with Pizza Ex-

presses in and around Preston – it's a long story – was straight in there, almost salivating at the mere thought of dough balls.

Simply, but exquisitely presented, I picked up my first piece of calamari – well, fingers were invented before forks – with some trepidation, as I had been reliably informed by my Italian food expert opposite that it can be chewy. Not a bit of it, it melted in the mouth and the dip set my palate aglow with tartness. Judging by the silence, albeit brief, and Cheshire cat grin of my eating partner, the dough balls were also up to standard.

In between courses, I was taken aback, once again by the decor. Marble tables with a selection of different seating – none of which looked like the types developed by sadists who only work in 90 degree angles, making you feel like you're about to fall down a ski slope. Instead comfort is assured. There is a black and white theme throughout, with dark

wood in between and modern lighting bringing things smack-bang up to date, without going over the top – at no point did I think American diner.

And at no point did I think Italian pretension either – there were no strains of accordion in the background, or Volare being blasted out on the music system, instead it was unobtrusive up-beat pop, played at a volume which didn't interfere with conversation.

Cannily, the diner is given a first-hand view of the goings-on in the kitchen, as it's open plan and you see your dishes being created before your very eyes.

Anyway, back to the food, my main was a thin crust diavolo pizza, as I am not a fan of doughy chewing-for-infinity Italian fayre. On arrival, it was actually bigger than the plate, but had a very generous smattering of spicy beef, peppers and pepperoni to keep me occupied, with the base at the very most plate thickness, brilliant for me, with my aversion to dough chomping.

Meanwhile Mrs Preston had the lasagna classica, which it has to be said, looked fantastic. Huh? We go to a pizza restaurant and she doesn't have pizza? No, I didn't get that one either. Between us there was a side salad which had a lovely sharp dressing and proper, crunchy homemade coleslaw.

I have to admit to being beaten by the sheer size of my main course, but I had an eye on the dessert menu, which offered far more than the usual chocolate fudge cake and ice cream – see I'm used to class joints me! I was particularly intrigued by the dolcetti offerings, smaller sweets on a oblong plate alongside a coffee of your choice – what a fantastic idea! So it was salted caramel profiteroles for me.

The missus meanwhile opted for limoncello, a very sweet and sour sorbet affair, with meringue-type bits inside and lemony sauce within – mouth-watering. Both were the perfect end to a perfect meal, which was just part of the Pizza Express experience and one which we hope to repeat very soon.

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PROPERTY

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Immaculate apartment in unique setting

A unique two-bedrooomed apartment in a converted development close to Willenhall town centre, has come onto the market, with offers being sought in the region of £130,000.

This immaculately presented two-bedroom home in Hopword Lock Court, off New Road is presented as a showhome style residence courtesy of agents Paul Dubberley.

The apartment, part of a prestigious development, has electric gated off-road parking.

Internal inspection is essential to appreciate the size and specification of this unique property, which briefly comprises an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner with island, two good sized bedrooms (master with en suite shower room), and family bathroom.

There is laminate flooring in the entrance hall, which also features a radiator, ceiling light point, alarm and intercom, with doors to bedrooms, bathroom and lounge.

The good-sized lounge has a upvc window to rear, gas fire with feature surround, radiator, laminate flooring, ceiling light point and a door to the kitchen.

Splashback

At 13ft by 11ft, the kitchen is fitted with a range of modern wall and base units with under counter lighting. There is a middle island unit, various work surfaces, and there is a tiled splashback. A double stainless steel cooker and gas hob features and extractor fan over. There is also an integrated wine chiller, a sink and drainer with mixer tap, a boiler housing, tiled flooring, radiator and upvc window to the side.

The largest bedroom, at 15' 1" x 13' 11" (4.596m x 4.247m) has a upvc window to the front, laminate flooring, radiator and a door leading to the en suite bathroom.

The en suite itself is fitted with a low flush wc, vanity wash hand basin, shower cubicle with electric shower, chrome ladder radiator and extractor fan.

Bedroom two, at 13' 6" x 8' 11" (4.06m x 2.716m), has a upvc window to front, carpeted flooring, radiator, ceiling light point.

There is also a family bathroom, which is fitted with a modern suite comprising low flush wc, vanity basin with mixer tap, bath with main shower attached to mixer tap, tiled flooring, chrome ladder radiator, extractor.

For details of the property, contact agents Paul Dubberley on 01902 633 323, or email willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

WILLENHALL £130,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Paul Dubberley

TEL: 01902 633 323

EMAIL: willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

Immaculately presented

Laminate flooring

En suite bathroom

Converted development

Situated near to Willenhall town centre

Kitchen/diner with island

Two bedrooms





Traditional home with plenty of scope for extending

WALSALL
£420,000

In one of south Walsall's most prestigious residential areas, this traditional-style black and white fronted detached family home in Skip Lane, Walsall lies on a generous plot.

With tremendous scope for extension and further improvement, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £420,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an enclosed porch, reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, bar/sitting room, a breakfast kitchen, a utility, a dining room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage, front and rear gardens.

The property is a short distance from Walsall Town Centre, Walsall Cricket, Rugby and Golf Club and public transport services to Walsall and Birmingham town Centres.

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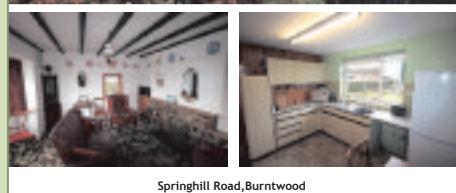
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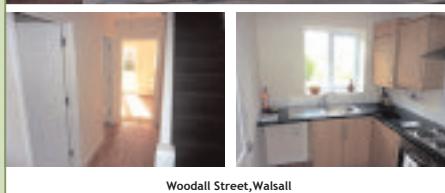
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- Master Bedroom with En-suite

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- New Bathroom
- Downstairs W.C.
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Glenegleas Road, Walsall

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- Lounge
- Kitchen / Diner
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £525



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- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £695



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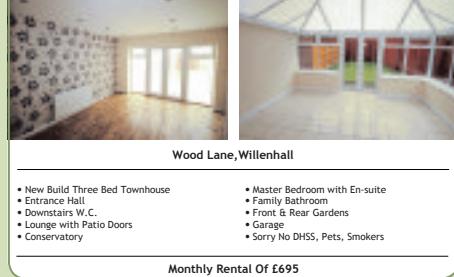
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- Kitchen
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• Two Garages • Large Corner Plot, Gardens
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• Hall, Lounge • Kitchen, Conservatory
• Three Bedrooms • Bathroom, Double Glazing
• Gas Central Heating • Driveway, Rear Gardens
£140,000

NEW INVENTION BRAMBLE CLOSE
• Well Appointed 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
• Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen • Re-fitted Bathroom
• Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
• Front And Rear Gardens • Integral Garage
£139,950

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• Reception Room, Two Reception Rooms
• Superb Kitchen
£539,950

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- SPACIOUS 25FT THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- BATHROOM AND SEPARATE SHOWER ROOM

GUIDE PRICE £160,000

STOWE STREET, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- THREE BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LOUNGE AND DINING KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN

£97,500 OFFERS

WALLINGTON CLOSE, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- TRADITIONAL DETACHED BUNGALOW
- CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE AND PARKING
- POPULAR LOCATION
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£215,000 OFFERS

MULBERRY PLACE, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- AUCTION PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS

- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- GARDENS AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

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BEECHES ROAD WALSALL

- SPACIOUS DETACHED PROPERTY
- EXCELLENT POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE
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- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS

- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- GARDEN AT REAR
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO CHAIN

£130,000 OFFERS

BROAD LANE, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- AUCTION PROPERTY
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
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- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING

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Three Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C., UPVC D/G, Gas C/H, Front And Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking To The Rear

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CLIFT CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed End Town House Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C. And Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/G, Majority G/C/H And Enclosed Rear Garden.

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PINFOLD STREET EXT, DARLASTON

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£105,000

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FOR SALE

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SHORT HEATH

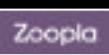
FOR SALE

EZEKIEL LANE, WILLENHALL

Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow Comprises Of Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, D/Room, Family Bathroom, Two Ground Floor And One First Floor Bedroom, D/G & G/C/H. Potential Building Plot STPP.

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Harrowby Place Willenhall

REDUCED

Offers around £120,000

A three bedroom traditional semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and carport. Energy rating E.

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Milton Street Walsall

NEW

Offers Around £115,000

A well presented three bedroom terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This ideal family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Broadwaters Road Wednesbury

NEW

Offer around £125,000

A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property is in need of some refurbishment whilst further comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom with separate W.C, rear garden, enclosed off road parking and integral garage. Energy rating E.

Little Station Street Walsall

NEW

Offers around £64,995

••CURRENTLY LET OUT AT £425 PCM UNTIL JAN 2017•• Situated within the heart of Walsall is this second floor one double bedroom apartment. The accommodation with double glazing includes, lounge, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom, double bedroom. The apartment offers enough space for anyone downsizing or just starting out and also would make an ideal investment for landlord. Energy rating C.

Wallace Road Bilston

NEW

Offers around £120,000

••SUIT LANDLORD. IDEAL INVESTMENT, CURRENTLY HAS A TENANT IN PAYING £550PCM•• A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, downstairs W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front & rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Energy rating E.

Thorncroft Way Walsall

NEW

Offers around £239,995

••OFFERS INVITED•• A very well presented 4 bedroom detached family home located in a popular residential location. This spacious accommodation further comprises of reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest W.C and conservatory. To the first floor are 4 bedrooms, family bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom. The property also benefits from no upward chain, gas central heating and double glazing and rear garden. To the front is a driveway providing off road parking and garage. Energy rating D.

Bransdale Close Wolverhampton

REDUCED

Offers around £120,000

A lovely three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and cul-de-sac location. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating C.

Lysways Street Walsall

NEW

Offers around £180,000

A good size extended, 5 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This spacious property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, dining room, utility area, downstairs family bathroom, guest W.C, 5 good sized bedrooms, 1st floor W.C, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy rating E.

Deans Place Walsall

REDUCED

Offers around £110,000

A well presented extended, 3 bedroom semi-detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, rear gardens and block paved driveway. Viewing essential. Energy rating E.



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SOLD

OFFERS AROUND: £189,995

Merstone Close
Bilston

A One bedroom ground floor flat with a potential rental yield of 8.5% briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom. No upward chain.

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: £60,000



SOLD

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Cedar Road
Willenhall

TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW IN NEED OF MODERNISATION.

Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, The Property Comprises Of; Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms And Family Bathroom.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000



REDUCED

OFFERS AROUND: £124,995

Hawkswell Drive
Willenhall

Well Presented Two Bedroom Family Home On The Sought After 'Hadley Heath' Estate. Benefiting From Double Glazing, The Property Comprises Of; Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, 30ft Conservatory To The Side, Two Bedrooms And Family Shower Room.

OFFERS AROUND: £124,995



SOLD

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Uplands Avenue
Willenhall

Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow In The Popular Portobello Location, With Excellent Transport Links To Walsall, Wolverhampton, Bilston And Wednesfield Alite.

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000



OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Stowheath Lane
Wolverhampton

Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Home With Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Briefly Comprising Of; Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Bedrooms And Enclosed Rear Garden.

VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! NO CHAIN! EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £78,000

Dillways Lane
Willenhall

Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This First Floor One Bedroom Apartment In The Popular Willenhall Location, With Excellent Transport Links To Wolverhampton, Walsall And Willenhall Alite.

OFFERS AROUND: £78,000

Whitehouse Crescent
Wednesfield

A three-bedroom semi-detached family home with the benefit of double glazing (where specified) and gas central heating. The property further comprises; reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, open plan kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom with shower, separate WC, front and rear gardens. Viewings 01902 633323. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Fordbrook Lane
Walsall

An Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home In The Popular Location of Pelsall. Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Family Home, Within The Catchment Area Of Shelfield Academy And Located Within Walking Distance Of Pelsall Village, Which Offers A Range Of Shopping And Recreational Facilities And Amenities.

OFFERS AROUND: £175,000

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CGI shows the 3 bedroom Fairbourne homes at Waterside Place. Internal photographs of a typical Kier showhome. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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Honda Motability offers

By James Parker

With an excellent range that includes best-sellers like the new Honda Jazz, new Civic hatchback and Tourer estate plus the CR-V SUV, Honda is able to offer Motability considerable choice and variety.

It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain!

Last year, What Car? Magazine's journalists voted Honda as the most reliable car brand for the ninth year in a row.

All this information combines to make Honda a 'go to' brand for many Motability customers, especially as this esteemed manufacturer is able to offer a number of enticing deals.

Let's take a look at those Honda Motabil-

ity offers currently available at your Honda dealer.

New Honda Jazz

We start with the talented Jazz where selected models in the excellent new Honda Jazz supermini range are now available with NIL Motability Advanced Payment, including the Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC S Automatic and even better equipped Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Automatic.

All other Jazz models are also available under the scheme for low Advanced Payments.

Honda Civic

Need more room? All of the Civic five-door range is available to Motability customers, including petrol and diesel versions and the sleek Civic Tourer model.

Outstanding Motability offers across the Civic range include the NIL Advanced Payment on the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S five-door, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door and the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door with Sat Nav. The Civic 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic is also



It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain

available with a Low Advanced Payment of £99. All these Civics are petrol-powered.

Go diesel and there's the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC S five-door available for a Motability Advanced Payment of only £99. What's more, you'll be gaining one of the most advanced, refined and efficient diesels around.

Opt for the stylish Civic Tourer and there's nil advanced payment on the Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic while the Civic Tourer 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for the low advanced pay-

ment of £299. The Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC S with that excellent diesel powerplant is also available for an Advanced Payment of £299.

Honda CR-V

And then there's the CR-V, Honda's exceptionally talented SUV for Motability customers to consider, especially as the CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for an advanced payment of £299. The diesel-powered CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC S 2WD is also available for an advanced payment of £699.

Say hello to the Honda range

Say hello to Nil Advance Payment

We're always trying to find new ways to build safer, smarter cars. And now you can drive one home from Nil Advance Payment with Honda Motability.

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The new Jazz 1.3 SE
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Big on the inside.
With Magic Seats
you can rearrange
180 ways.



**FROM
NIL**
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The Civic 5dr 1.4 SE Plus
Sleeker. Sportier.
Smarter all round.
With Magic Seats and
City Brake Active System.

**FROM
NIL**
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The Civic Tourer 1.8 S
Dynamic. Practical.
Designed for life.
With doors that open
up wide to 90 degrees.



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Nowhere better to go topless

By Ian Donaldson

ANYONE lustng after a new Evoque Convertible – and lots do already – will dismiss the next paragraph as laughably irrelevant, but here goes anyway.

The new car costs thousands more than its fixed roof sibling, uses more fuel, emits more pollution, is slower, heavier, less roomy for people and luggage and will cost more to insure and tax.

If your inner accountant says that's a unanimous guilty verdict against the soft top then you clearly don't inhabit the same chilled char donnay, Jimmy Choo world of a likely Evoque Convertible owner.

The sort of person who owns (or who dreams of owning) a pad in Sandbanks, the spit of Dorset sand with the fourth dearest real estate values in the world and where Range Rover took us to try the new roofless Evoque.

Hood down on a chill spring morning, the car drew the sort of admiring glances you might expect if Princess Kate and Angelina Jolie cycled past on a tandem.

Two ladies-who-lunch stopped to peer into the car and were impressed.

Asked to guess its price they confidently thought 'seventy or eighty.' That's thousands, of course, and they were thousands out – on the wrong side. Suddenly, asking fifty grand for the car we were driving (the Convertible starts from £47,500) begins to look a bit of a bargain in a world where want wins over need every time.

If you have that sort of disposable income (and Range Rover thinks enough of us do to turn a tidy profit) then what the car says about you is almost all that matters – mere facts can

join last year's platinum card statements in the shredder.

And with the sun shining, heated seats on max and the wind deflector in place, there really was nowhere nicer to spend a south coast spring morning than behind the wheel of a new Evoque Convertible.

Even a flurry of sleet (yes, we're talking about a British spring day) failed to dampen proceedings, simply flying over the car as we sped to lunch in a trendy cliff top restaurant (of course).

Showstopper

Later, at a 70mph cruise back to our hotel, driver and passenger could talk without raising voices and enjoy the lack of breeze in the cockpit, happy in the knowledge that if the heavens opened the huge fabric roof would whirr into place in 21 seconds and at up to 30mph on the move – a bit of a showstopper, that.

It actually folds even faster (18 seconds for the factually minded) and renders the car as sung and quiet as the tin-topped version when in place.

Fitting it to an Evoque, though, has consequences. As well had adding the weight of three large men to the car because of bracing needed to compensate for cutting off the roof, it needs somewhere to live when folded. That eats into boot space – almost halved over the fixed roof model and accessed by more of a hinged flap than proper boot lid – but rear seat legroom shrinks to growing child proportions only.

Neither demerit will matter a jot of course to a potential Evoque Convertible buyer, of course, who will argue that there's still enough space for a weekend's worth of luggage and the kids will fit nicely for the school run. Both of which are true.



They won't worry about the blunted performance or economy either, even it makes the car change down in the smooth nine-speed automatic gearbox more than you expect when asked to press on. A little restraint showed better than 40mpg on the test run and an average of 34mpg when used with a bit of enthusiasm. So, no deal breaker.

The huge majority of UK buyers will take the 2.0 litre, 178bhp diesel fitted to the test car but there's a more powerful 237bhp 2.0 litre petrol version available too, from £48,200.

Clearly aimed at the peak of the Evoque mountain, the new Convertible comes in two trim levels – plush and even plusher.

Standard kit on the HSE Dynamic includes big 20ins alloy wheels, heated front screen, rear view camera, smart leather upholstery with electrically adjustable front seats, 10 speaker sound system and a superb touch screen with excellent sat nav and mobile phone connectivity.

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On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1 April and 30 June 2016 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Savings shown are against list price, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

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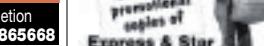
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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CLARA, 32y old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality time with great company. If you get the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 422055

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensible and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel. No.: 0906 500 3955 Box: 422033

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 421975

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 422013

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airtime worker, seeks discreet gent, any age, for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensible and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 422033

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 421877

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: No: 422013

ROSE, genuine well educated, sophisticated lady 29yrs WLTM fun loving chap, any age for chats, lunch, discreet meetings. Box: 4124710 Text only

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029

JAYNE, bored housewife, 42yrs looking for someone to spice up her days with some fun and jokes. Box: 4155728 Text only

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 Brunette, loves horses, country/ beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/ food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

CARING honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

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ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. Tel. No.: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 5448634

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

MARGARET, 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

ATTRACTION, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guys 35-40 pls text. Text only Mailbox: 5419773

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445

HONEST, sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

SALLY, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445

MICHELLE, 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

JESSICA, 39, attractive fit/heathy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420358

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

SAMANTHA pretty blonde, very busy 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to see cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

SAMANTHA pretty blonde, very busy 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

JOEY 30y old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418029

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

CAROL, 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420577

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. Text only Mailbox: 419364

JOEY 30y old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418029

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Plenty of help – volunteers at Springhill



Painting the gates, Harry Baddams, Tommy Cox and Harry Davenport



Volunteers working hard at Codsall Cricket Club

The covers are off as clubs feel the Force

CRICKET clubs across the Black Country and Staffordshire have been sprucing up their grounds ahead of the new season.

Old Hill, Cannock, Himley, Springhill and Codsall were just a few of the clubs hard at work recently, in line with NatWest's Cricket Force initiative.

With the help of volunteers from the bank, members of the various clubs spent hours of their spare time painting fences, scrubbing sight screens and erecting boundary fencing.

Those from Old Hill Cricket Club, based in Cradley Heath, touched up the entrance gates, decorated the changing rooms and outside benches, and improved the pitch.

Funding

Volunteers at Springhill Cricket Club spent their weekend constructing new training nets for the forthcoming season, as well as working on the patio of the new pavilion, which cost an approximate total of £180,000.

Codsall CC received £300 of funding from the English Cricket Board, via the Jewson Privilege Scheme, which went towards buying tools and equipment to create an outdoor compound where equipment can now be kept.

The club was also recently awarded a grant by Midcounties Co-operative to buy new mobile nets, and it is hoped the improvements made to the ground will ensure there is secure space for them. The aim of the Cricket Force scheme

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"It's hard going finding money to support community groups like ours, so we are very lucky that large organisations like these are giving back to the little guys."

is to bring clubs and their communities closer, and Vicki Green, Codsall CC chair, said: "Cricket force is a great weekend that brings all the club together."

"We dig and build, clean and scrub. It's a real team effort and we had a lots of fun."

Grateful

"Even young children got involved doing up noticeboards and clearing out the changing rooms."

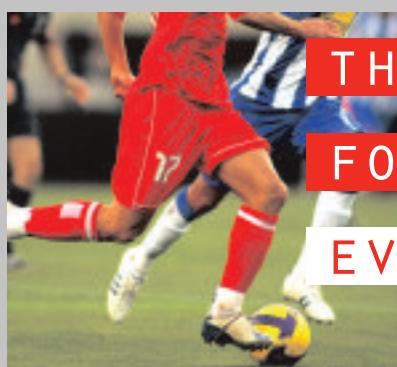
"We are so grateful to all our volunteers and the support of the ECB, NatWest, Staffordshire Cricket Board, Jewson's Builders Merchants and Midcounties Cooperative who helped us make a massive difference to the ground and its facilities."

"It's hard going finding money to support community groups like ours, so we are very lucky that large organisations like these are giving back to the little guys."



Making tea for the workers Judy Cox with Tommy Cox in the changing rooms

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Grounds for improvement as cricket clubs feel the force

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Boxers vie for Schools' area deciders

WEST Midlands boxers fight for their area deciders in the England Schools Championships this weekend. The area finals take place on Sunday at the Newdigate Social Club in Bedworth.

Three divisions are separated by age ranging from the 'minors' (fighters born 2004), Class A (2003) and Class B (2002). Bouts are over three one-and-a-half minute rounds. Box-offs whittle down the entrants when there are more than two at the weight.

In the first regional round at Donnington in Shropshire, at Class A at 34kg, Wednesbury's Brindley Smith defeated Connor Jones, from Priory Park, Dudley. In a box-off at the Irish Centre in Birmingham, Smith beat Great Wyrley's Bradley Jukes.

Kyle Chamber of Merridale thwarted Kane Reynolds at 37kg and then beat Layton Butler in a box-off. He next has Ahmed Baker, from Small Heath.

Club-mate Haaver Tazeem will take on Alfie Satchwell, from Bell Green in Coventry at 39.5kg. At 40kg, Merridale's Arman Aziz will fight Bell Green's Dhiran Kumar.

Walsall Wood's Hamza Uddin (31kg) and John Boy Williamson (46kg) have byes to the nationals, along with Wednesbury's Gurpreet Mann (32.5kg) and Merridale duo Awaais Ali (41.5kg) and Imaan Khan (48kg).

Pleck's Haider Hanif goes toe-to-toe at 43kg in Class B with Davien Daniels, from Eastside in Birmingham. Gulraj Powar, from Richie Carter's Golden Gloves in Wolverhampton, faces Cameron Ward, from Exhall in Coventry at 52kg.

Wodenborough's Cole Lee has the Jewellery Quarter's Mason Passey at 59kg. There are byes to the national stages for Wednesbury's Jagbir Mann (40kg) and, at 40kg, for Right Stuff in Stafford's Chloe Bastock.

Tully aims to make big splash in Rio qualification bid

ALDRIDGE swimmer Tully Kearney was hoping to nail down a place at the Rio Paralympic Games with an impressive showing at the IPC Swimming European Open Championships.

It is the last major event ahead of the Games and takes place in Funchal, Portugal, until Sunday.

The 19-year-old won four golds – the 100m butterfly, 200m individual medley, 400m freestyle and women's medley – at the World Championships last year.

However, she did not achieve the qualifying standard for the Games at the British Para-Swimming trials this week.

A total of 25 swimmers managed to meet the required standard over the five days of competition, including four-time Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds, also from Aldridge.

Simmonds broke her own S6 400m freestyle World Record. She took a second off her time after clocking five minutes and 18.69 seconds in Glasgow.

The Team GB Para-Swimming line-up for the Games is set to be announced next month.

Pupils make waves with medal success



Pheasey Park Primary celebrate success

YOUNGSTERS from Great Barr made waves in the Black Country Swimming finals.

The Pheasey Park Primary boys and girls teams, aged from nine-to-11, excelled against 11 other schools at Wednesbury Leisure Centre.

The boys team, captained by captain Ethan Barker and including Rhys Peters, Blake Webb, Callum Bird and Harrison Bottrell, showed the rivals the way home as they claimed gold.

Amber Catley led her team-mates Anne Marie Wardle, Grace Cooper, Chloe Mallon and Amy Rowbathan to bronze in the girls competition.

The success in the pool follows other sporting

Swimming

achievements. The girls football team plays Walsall Wood in the Walsall Primary Schools' final while they have also reached the semi-finals of the Division One Championship.

The boys year five and six cross country side claimed second overall in the Walsall Primary Schools cross country competitions while five pupils represented Walsall in the district finals at Aldersley Stadium.

The tag rugby team achieved joint second place in the Streetly tag rugby festival.

High five for Wood ahead of cup final

Walsall Wood 5 Continental Star 0
WOOD finished their league programme with a comfortable victory over relegated Continental Star.

Wood wasted chance after chance and the game could have ended with them improving their goal difference by another 10 or even 15 goals.

It took just 13 minutes for Wood to take the lead, Joey Butlin firing across the keeper and into the net.

After wave after wave of attacks, number two came after 35 minutes as Max Black fired a rebound past keeper James.

On 41 minutes James was put into trouble by a suicidal back pass, Butlin closed him down, won the ball and calmly slotted home to make it 3-0, confirming his position as top scorer with 24.

Five minutes into the second half, Harry Harris dived to head home the fourth to continue his scoring run and he added his second, and Wood's fifth, in injury time.

Walsall Wood 0 Lye Town – Polymac Packaging League Cup Semi-final 2nd leg (agg 2-2)

WOOD progressed through to the League Cup Final on the away goals rule to face league champions Hereford at Solihull Moors ground on next Tuesday (May 10).

Both sides went for the outright victory with Wood having the better of the chances. The only thing missing was a goal but Wood won through courtesy of the two goals scored in the away leg.

Stourport Swifts 1 Walsall Wood 1
BOTH sides had an eye on the league cup semi-final, but in an interesting contest, a draw was a fair reflection.

Max Black scored Wood's 100th goal of the season to give them the lead on 35 minutes.

Liam Williams equalised after earlier seeing a penalty saved by Adam Jenkins.

Colts bow out of trophy with a fight

Walsall Colts 8 Stourbridge Colts 26
WALSALL battled bravely in the Fred Rowley Trophy semi-final against an experienced and well-organised Stourbridge, who now meet Sutton Coldfield.

The hosts held on to a 3-0 lead for the first quarter thanks to a Zach Edwards penalty. But the visitors broke through to score three tries before the interval.

Walsall Colts responded with a good Edwards try and then they restricted Stourbridge to just one further score.

At the Walsall Seniors end of season awards evening, Jeffrey Williamson was the Player of the Season. Simon Weaver was voted the Supporters' Player.

DREAM IS ON FOR SADDLERS

Walsall 3 Fleetwood Town 1

COULD there be just one last twist in this truly remarkable season?

Acting boss Jon Whitney thinks so and after ruthlessly dispatching Fleetwood, Walsall fans are daring to dream once again.

It's going to take a mammoth effort for the Saddlers to overhaul Burton and clinch that second automatic spot in League One.

But 2-0 win over Port Vale on Sunday, together with the Brewers losing at Doncaster will see Whitney's men clinch that coveted runners-up spot.

The Cod Army arrived at the Banks's Stadium determined to claim a point that would see them retain their league status.

But Whitney had drilled into his players the need to treat their final three games of the league season with a cup mentality.

Excellent

And with that mindset, the Saddlers started like a steam train. Within just two minutes they were ahead with the excellent Jason Demetriou delivering a low cross that Tom Bradshaw deftly swept past Chris Maxwell, his 19th of the season.

Sensing blood and in need of goals, Walsall continued piling forward at will.

Demetriou and Bradshaw both went close before Paul Downing extended the lead in the 18th minute.

Fleetwood were never going to allow the Saddlers to enjoy the same levels of control after the re-start.

It became 3-0 just before the hour mark when Sawyers added yet another spectacular goal to his collection.

The only down point of the afternoon was substitute Devante Cole's late consolation.

Whether Walsall have one fixture left or, three, or even four, this game showed yet again the Saddlers are capable of hitting top gear when the pressure is on.

And with only one automatic place left, it could come down to who handles the pressure best on the final day.

So, for that reason, Walsall fans can still dare to dream.

Top of the Bill for club's 50th



From left, chairman Martyn Loach, president Elfyn Pugh, Bill Beaumont, Staffordshire Rugby president Iain Haley, former player Harry Munslow and treasurer Mick McKenzie

FORMER England captain and current RFU chairman Bill Beaumont was the start guest as Willenhall Rugby Club marked their 50th anniversary.

The club, whose first team play in Midlands Four West, was formed in March 1966. They ended their season with a 40-24 win over Bloxwich to end sixth in the table.

They first played in Essington, then moved to Willenhall Park, before purchasing their current home on Bognor Road from Bill Simkin of Essington Hall Farm in 1972.

And Beaumont, who led England to a Five Nations Grand Slam in 1980, joined founder members and ex-players for a celebratory

dinner. The ex-England and British Lion lock said: "If you think about it, 99 per cent of rugby played in this country is at clubs like this."

"I'm just on my way back from meetings at Twickenham, back up to my home in Lancashire, so it seemed a convenient place to drop in and I'm delighted to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary."

Willenhall president Elfyn Pugh said: "It was a fantastic night, and Bill Beaumont was fantastic."

"To think he gave his services for free was great and we did a collection for his chosen charity, the Wooden Spoon. It was great to see so many names from the past."

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Thursday, May 5, 2016

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equestrian corner

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check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique
guns, taxidermy, big bore guns,
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pets corner

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www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolvesNOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with its
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

POODLE DOG SPECIALIST
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Business & Farming

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advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

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Monthly terms 07545 9096936
Property

overseas property

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entering into any financial commitments.EXPERIENCED PLASTER
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the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

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part time - general

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Diesel, zero tax, 2008, 101,000 miles, air bag, air con, fsh, long
MoT, great fuel economy. Minor
body / trim damage.Reduced for quick sale.
£1,950.
07960 411184.VAUXHALL CORSA Life, 1.3 diesel,
2009, low tax, red, good condition,
115,000 miles, £2,300 o.n.o.

07733 281902.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements
(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.BMA www.bmacars.com
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150,000 miles.£825.
07885 772238.UPVC WINDOW FITTERS required.
Walsall area. Good rates of pay.
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If you feel that you are capable of achieving what we require and would like to be
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Please note Agencies should not reply to this advertisement.

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miles, MoT June 2016, good condition
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1600cc, 2002, 5D hatchback,
petrol, silver, 9 months MoT,
76,000 miles, immaculate
inside and out.
£750.
07733 063270/01543 505955.WV GOLF 2002, petrol, 5D hatch-
back, 1600cc, MoT, 70,000 miles,
silver, 1 owner, immaculate
condition. £795.
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motorbikes

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Stafford 01785 613427.HALAS HAWKS NORTH F.C.
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If you're interested contact
team Manager Dan on
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trials.

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personal

Marie Hogg on
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expressandstar.co.uk(remember to include a
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confirmation of receipt)Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning
(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development
Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.
Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall,
Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to
Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street,
Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of
the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details
will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will
be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may
be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.16/0462 Paul Broadgate FOR: CONVERSION OF EXISTING RETAIL
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STUDIO APARTMENT. TAT: 11, HIGH STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1QW16/0463 Paul Broadgate FOR: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT:
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for more information about

trials.

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general

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remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inaccu-

racies on the first day of publica-

tion.

9
Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

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We work closely with employers and take their advice about what skills and qualities they look for in an employee. We also work closely with agencies that advise us on high-demand employment opportunities and business growth areas.

Be a professional

In Walsall there are an increasing number of jobs for people with qualifications in professional areas such as management, business administration, ICT and finance. But there are not enough people in Walsall at the moment who are sufficiently qualified to take up these jobs.

The higher your qualifications, the more likely you are to be in paid work and the higher your earning power is likely to be. At WACC 75% of learners who achieved level 3 programme of study gained a permanent job or promotion shortly after their job finished. So if you've got ambition and determination to do well, a course at WACC could be a wise investment.

If your area of study is eligible and you apply for a loan, you don't start paying it back until 2017 and only then if you earn above £21,000 per year. It's an excellent way to invest in your future and WACC is a great place to make that investment because we really want you to succeed.



Career Launch

Career Launch is an intensive programme designed for people who are seeking to return to the job market or who are looking for a change of career. Career Launch offers the perfect opportunity to update or develop new skills while gaining accredited qualifications that will be attractive to employers and provide a stepping stone to higher level study and development.

Enterprise Skills

Looking to start your own business but need the confidence and knowledge to run one successfully? This course will give you the entrepreneurial skills you need to be your own boss. Whether you want to start up a new business or you want to move into management.

WACC 16-24 Training Academy

WACC have developed a Training Academy for young people designed to give them a step up on the career ladder with employment training programmes. If you have left school or are ready to leave school and are looking for employment focused training opportunity look no further. We will have a Programme of study to suit your level.



Skills for independence



At WACC we believe in supporting everyone to reach their full potential for independent living, personal effectiveness, community inclusion and work preparation. In doing so we treat all our learners with dignity and respect.



Our learning for living and work courses for people with learning disabilities are designed to provide structured learning, independent skills and active participation in college and community life.

WACC, the right environment for personal development

Each learner is an individual with a unique personality and character and our courses are personalised to enable each individual to explore and express their capabilities in a stretching, safe and supportive environment.

Learners have the opportunity to negotiate and agree their learning plan with input from staff, carers and guidance workers. We provide many opportunities for learners to experience and develop



their employability skills such as, work experience, voluntary work and on the job training.

WACC provide a vast array of courses that learners can access. This will support their social skills as well as developing vocational skills such as jewellery making, computer use, gardening and art.





16-24 Year Olds

Why choose WACC?



WACC has a track record of getting people into work.

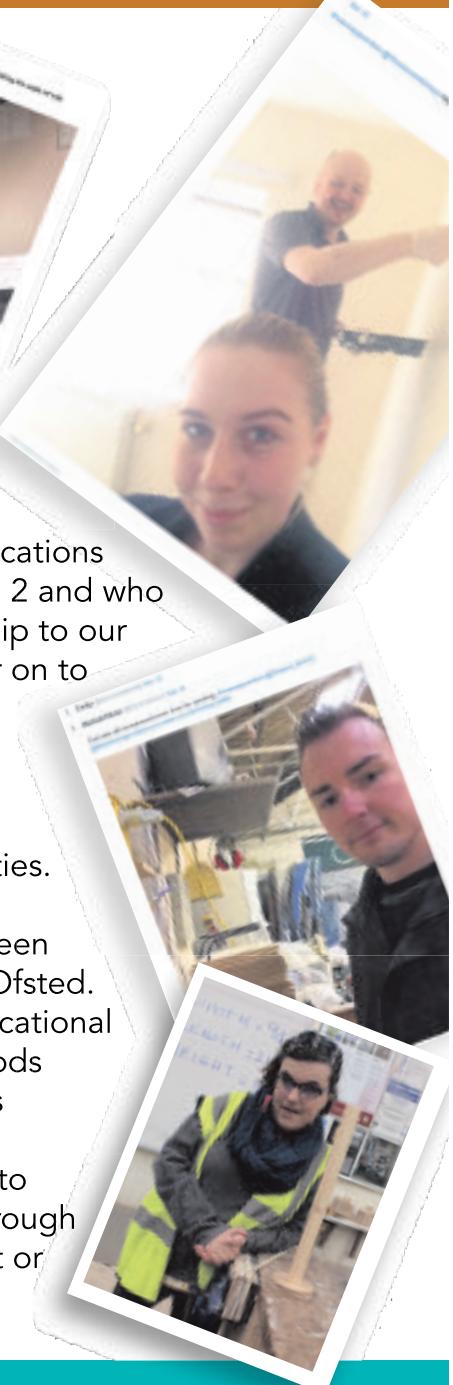
We have extensive links with local employers who are looking for 16-24 year olds to join their workforce as Apprentices.

We have also developed a successful pre-apprenticeship programme (known as Traineeships) as a first step for young people who are not yet ready for an Apprenticeship, to gain the skills to become work ready. Traineeships are short courses which include a work placement, a qualification in your chosen area and extra Maths and English support where needed.

Study programmes (or Pre-Traineeships) are

available for those who's qualifications and experience are below level 2 and who want to go through a Traineeship to our Apprenticeship programmes or on to a full time job.

We also offer a Pathway Programme for young people with moderate learning difficulties. WACC specialises in providing additional support which has been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted. Our staff are experts in their vocational areas and use innovative methods of teaching to engage students and support them through the programme. The aim is always to help develop these learners through to full or part time employment or volunteering.



Call WACC on 01922 663000

email: info@wacc.ac.uk

www.wacc.ac.uk

